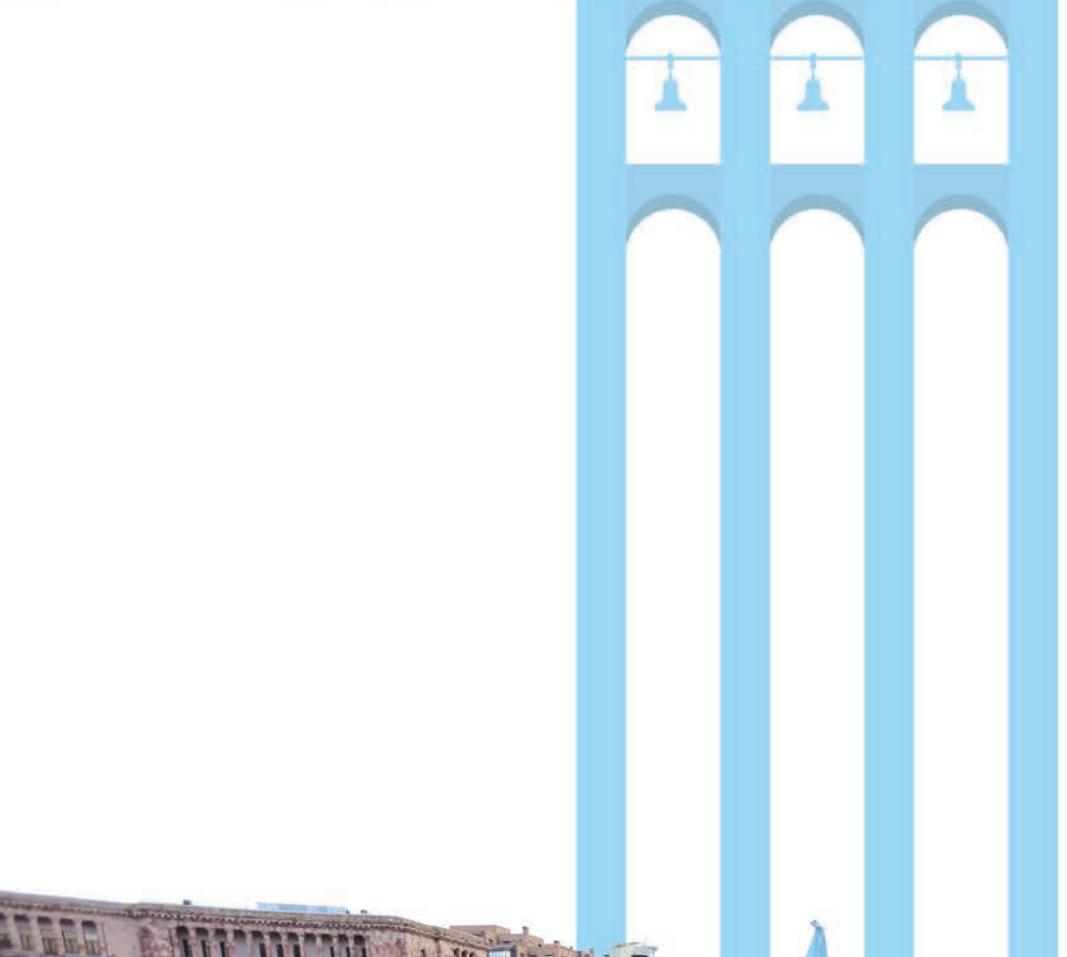


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ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Armenian NEWS



LII 2

APRIL • MAY • JUNE
2018

A STRIVING NATION
A CENTURY APART



AMAA NEWS

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31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652
Tel: (201) 265-2607; Fax: (201) 265-6015
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May 1918 to May 2018
A Century Apart

A Striving Nation *In Constant Pursuit of Independence* Our Role?

By Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO

Are we into politics?

Armenia is in turmoil and, in line with the AMAA's committed mission, involvement and presence in the country, we reflected with a public declaration unabashedly applauding the victory of a popular strife in the Homeland.

A few good friends rushed to invite my attention that the AMAA should steer away from political statements.

"Well done," said another "for making a critical public declaration with tact and eloquence, while underscoring critical distinctions."

To set minds to rest, let me assure you that the AMAA does not and will not get involved in politics as generally comprehended. The AMAA does not steer members, deliberate or encourage the public to favor John/Jane Doe over an opponent. However, the AMAA is keen to see that nations, and especially our Homeland, enjoy the freedom and exercise the right to express an opinion without undue pressure, intimidation, force, bribery or duress.

In the June 25, 1910 issue of the weekly AVEDAPER, the official publication of the Evangelical Church of Armenia and the Armenian Evangelical community in the Ottoman Empire and characterized on the manchette as a religious, educational, familial and political publication, the missionary Editor Rev. Herbert M. Alan, referring to a conviction among Armenian Evangelicals as being their 'national duty,' states: "It is imperative to feel the fire of national strife in their blood. It is imperative to grasp that Armenian Evangelicals are the invariable inheritors of the nation's most noble legacy."*

I see no reason for that fire to lose its intellectual intensity today.

I have often envisioned the 'new citizen' in the Homeland to be one of indelible integrity, upholding the highest moral values and of unblemished reputation. A citizen, unafraid to advocate social justice, freedom of conscience, expression or speech; a citizen who exercises voluntarism, sustains society, respects human rights, loves his neighbor and sacrifices for the Homeland; a citizen who loves the Lord and reflects His love around.

That vision is part of the practice of our AMAA mission in the Homeland and anywhere we operate.

A century ago, three years after of the zenith of a ferocious bluster, the most abhorrent experience in our thousands of years long history, we witnessed the merciful hand of God. In 1918, the remnants of the survivors, having their backs to the wall of annihilation fought the most ferocious and heroic battles against battalions of



regular army regiments. Holding back no sacrifice and brevity, they won the battle of survival, creating the first independent Republic in the history of our nation in many, many centuries.

Today, 100 years after the emergence of the first Republic, we witness a wave of an amazing popular discontent peacefully advocating another form of independence. Independence of the mind and soul to a fetterless horizon of creativity, dignity and the pursuit of happiness. Independence that will shatter the barrier of social, judicial and democratic injustice. Independence that will anchor the faith and conviction of a Homeland that equally belongs to all. Independence where all citizens equitably share rights and responsibilities.

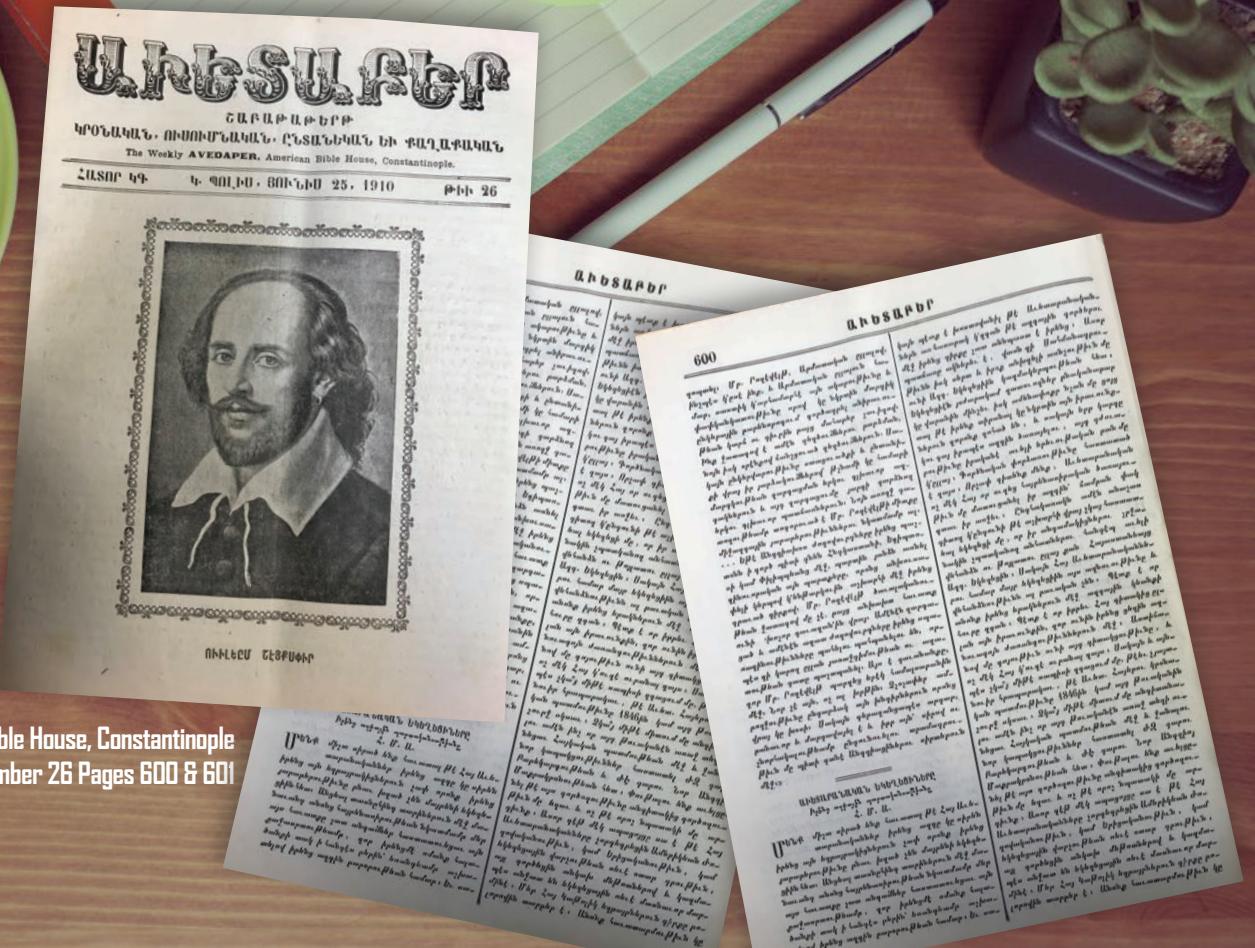
As a believer, I cannot confine myself to the complacency of my faith taking shelter in the promise of salvation without emulating the sacrifice, love, indulgence and compassion Christ has set for me. Whatever the name, that courage is part of our mission. I bow to the memory of heroes and heroines whose sacrificial struggle and martyrdom created the Armenian Republic in 1918. I equally revere the non-violent courage of our youth in Yerevan's Republic Square striving for a bright, happy, just and righteous Homeland.

Our yoke is to preserve, nurture and ingeniously develop what we have inherited for the benefit of the striving generation on Republic Square and their progeny, always reminding them of God's grace and love.

Thank you for your continued partnership in bearing that yoke!

It is much appreciated.

May 5, 2018
Paramus, NJ



*The Weekly AVEDAPER American Bible House, Constantinople
Volume 63 June 25, 1910 Number 26 Pages 600 & 601

What Courage, Unity and Faith Can Accomplish

By Rev. Kevork G. Terian*

We looked in vain for our allies to come and save us, but we were looking for nations that could not save us.

Lamentations 4:17

In intoxicated by the success of their diabolical plan of depopulating Western Armenia and Cilicia of their indigenous Armenian inhabitants, the Ottoman Turks turned their attention to Eastern Armenia with the aim of annihilating the remnants of the Armenian nation and wiping away Armenia off the maps of the world.

The prevailing conditions at that time favored the Turks. Following the Bolshevik Revolution, the Russian army withdrew from Transcaucasia and left the Armenian population defenseless against the Ottoman army that started advancing eastward into Armenia.

General Nazarbekian and Drastamat Kananyan, who is known by his nom de guerre Dro, hastily organized a small Armenian army to fill the positions that the Russians had vacated with Armenian units that consisted mainly of volunteers who had been displaced from Van, Moush, Sasoun and Bitlis by the Genocide of 1915.

On May 21, 1918, three divisions of the Ottoman army launched a three-pronged attack against Armenia. The first division seized the city of Alexandropol, modern Gyumri. The second division advanced on Pash Abaran, and the third division crossed the Arax River near modern Armavir, which is only 25 miles away from Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

After a fierce battle that lasted three days, Dro and his partisans were able to drive the Turkish invaders away from Pash Abaran after inflicting heavy losses on them. In the meantime, General Movses Silikian forced the Turks to retreat from Alexandropol. Colonel Daniel Pirumian, a brilliant military strategist, commanding the 5th Armenian Regiment, successfully conducted a flanking maneuver at Sardarabad that compelled the Turks to flee in disarray, leaving behind their dead and war equipment.

The Battle of Sardarabad, and the twin battles associated with it, was actually a "David versus Goliath" type of military engagement. Although the Armenians were outnumbered and outgunned, they were able to win decisive victories due to their exceptional heroism and Divine Providence. The reason I am also crediting God for the Armenian victories at those battlefields is because all military experts and historians are of the opinion that it was **EXTREMELY UNLIKELY** for the Armenians to defeat three well-equipped Ottoman divisions with their rag-tag, ill-equipped army and volunteers who lacked the most basic military training.

Granted the Armenian soldiers and volunteers were highly motivated because they knew that they were fighting for the existence of their nation. However, we cannot dismiss God's intervention in influencing the outcome of the battle when the odds stacked against us were indeed staggering.

Sardarabad was a battle of faith. Church bells kept ringing across the land of Armenia calling on people to pray and volunteer for battle. The clergy also responded by joining the volunteer units. The whole nation was mobilized despite the severe losses that the Armenians had suffered during the Genocide of 1915. All military experts use the word "Miracle" to describe the outcome of the Battle of Sardarabad and I concur with them.

Lamentations 4:17 describes the attitude of the Armenians during World War I. "We looked in vain for our allies to come and save us, but we were looking for nations that could not save us." We naively believed that the Allies (the United States, Great Britain, France and Russia) would rush to save us because our enemy belonged to the opposing camp. To our great dismay that did not happen. At Sardarabad in 1918, the situation was completely different. Our only ally, Russia, had abandoned us and we had to face our enemy all alone, relying entirely on ourselves and God.

The heroes of Sardarabad prevented the annihilation of the Armenian nation and restored Armenian statehood on May 28, 1918, by declaring the establishment of the First Armenian Republic which was officially recognized by even genocidal Turkey.

Marshall Bagramian, who was a highly decorated hero for his military exploits during World War II, says, "**If the Armenian forces had failed to defeat the Ottomans at Sardarabad, nothing would have remained of Armenia.**"

Today Armenia faces similar existential threats by the same perennial enemies. To overcome the many crises that confront us, we need patriotic leaders like Dro, Silikian and Pirumian. We need national unity and a well-trained and well-equipped army; moreover, we need to draw close to God. By abandoning our Christian faith, we would not accrue a single benefit; on the contrary, it would do us irreparable harm in every sphere. □



* Rev. Kevork G. Terian was the former Pastor of the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena, CA. He retired in April 2018.

The Centennial of Armenia's Independence



With Country, Right or Wrong

Jottings on the 100th Anniversary of the First Republic of Armenia

By Vahram Shemmassian, Ph.D.*

In 1918, independence dawned upon the Armenian people once again after centuries of subjugation by invading Turkic hordes and hostile neighbors. It was not the best of times, but there has never been a propitious moment in history whereby freedom is granted to a nation on a silver plate. And so, with sheer resolve and utmost sacrifice, the Armenians in the Caucasus in three main battles repelled invading Turkish nationalist forces bent on completing the Genocide that had taken place across from the border, in the Ottoman Empire. Armenian statehood was thus reborn. The nascent Republic laid an infrastructure based on democratic tenets that guaranteed human rights with the fullest meaning of the term. Unfortunately, the Republic, sandwiched between Bolshevik and Turkish avaricious designs, came to an end after a mere two-and-a-half years of existence. It then functioned for seven decades as a Soviet Republic under Communist ideology and rule. On September 21, 1991, independent Armenian statehood arose anew like a phoenix from the ashes of a crumbling Soviet Union.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the First Republic of Armenia, a most joyous occasion indeed. A lot has been written about that episode. Soviet historiography, based on Marxist-Leninist interpretations, has painted it with a distorted image. The Diaspora, in turn, has viewed it through diametrically opposed prisms. The Red-Blue-Orange Tricolor, the symbol of the Republic, became a bone of contention between those who defended and preserved it and those who despised and could not tolerate it. The Cold War that pitted the West and the Soviet Union against each other further polarized the Armenian camps. Fortunately, as Armenia after 1991 adopted the Tricolor as its

national flag, all factions in the Diaspora embraced the cause. Although the jury is not out yet—and it may never be—in its dispassionate assessment of the historical experience of 1918-1920, the tempers have subsided to a large extent.

Needless to say, without 1918-1920 we would not have 1920-1991 nor 1991-present. It is this continuum, albeit with its ups and downs, that we must understand with a mature and maturing collective mind devoid of emotional, romantic, glorifying and or idealistic expressions. For sobriety is the order of the day. And we must support "country, right or wrong" but with a caveat: To right all wrongs, always seeking God's guidance to have the wisdom and moral fortitude to do so. □



* Dr. Vahram Shemmassian is Associate Professor and the Director of the Armenian Studies Program in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures at California State University, Northridge.



The Velvet Revolution of Armenia

By Harout Nercessian, AMAA Representative in Armenia

On May 8, 2018, with the reluctant yet necessary support of the parliamentary majority Republican Party, the Armenian Parliament elected the outspoken and *ardent* critic of the ruling party, Nikol Pashinyan as Prime Minister (PM). This extraordinary political earthquake ushered in a new era of what Armenians hope will become one of justice, prosperity and dignity for all. This election was the culmination of weeks of popular and continuously expanding peaceful protest marches, highway closures, walkouts, boycotts, and other acts of civil disobedience. Evening protests at Republic Square in the center of Yerevan followed the daytime protests. An average of 100,000 protesters gathered to hear defiant yet inspiring speeches by movement leaders, pop artists and Diaspora celebrities. The emotionally charged gatherings ended with compelling speeches by Nikol Pashinyan.

Pashinyan instructed his followers, most of whom were young people, to be respectful and loving toward the authorities, especially the police.

He challenged the cheering crowds and the hundreds of thousands of online viewers to claim and fight for their rights for free and fair elections. He said that they were entitled to a government that would listen and respond to the concerns and aspirations of the people whom they were elected to serve.

Earlier the protesters had successfully demanded the resignation of PM Serzh Sargsyan, who had just been elected to a third term as head of state, and they followed that with a unified demand for the immediate election of the "people's choice" as PM.

The protest movement, named "My Step" (ի՞ քայլը), began on March 31, when Nikol Pashinyan, along with a handful of associates, began his 14-day protest march from Gyumri to Yerevan. Every day, the movement gained momentum as it spread throughout the country and Armenian communities in the Diaspora. On April 23, PM Sargsyan resigned. The people were both stunned by the news and further emboldened. The startling news of Sargsyan's resignation sparked instantaneous street parties throughout the country. Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets cheering and congratulating one another.

On May 1, the ruling majority party refused to support the candidacy of Nikol Pashinyan, and the Parliament failed to elect a new PM. That same evening, Pashinyan called for a general paralyzing strike in the country on May 2, blocking all transportation, including the Metro, major highways, the access road to Zvartnots Airport, and a walk-out at schools and governmental offices. The day ended with the largest gathering ever at Republic Square: more than 200,000 people demanded the election of Nikol Pashinyan as PM.

On May 2, the ruling Republican Party unwillingly agreed to support Pashinyan's candidacy for Prime Minister. On May 8, most Armenians, glued to their television and computer screens or car radios, watched and listened to the Parliamentary election proceedings. The long-awaited new era was ushered in with the election of Nikol Pashinyan as the 12th Prime Minister of Armenia.

Pashinyan promised that his administration would not take revenge, and will uproot all forms of corruption and cronyism. The country will not have any political prisoners and the judiciary will be allowed to operate independent of all external influences. All citizens will be treated as equals before the law.

This Velvet Revolution has inspired new hope among Armenians, both in the Homeland and the Diaspora. For the first time in many years, people are optimistic about the future. They feel that they finally have a "government of the people, by the people and for the people."

It must be noted that AMAA Armenia operations were not interrupted during or after the Revolution. □



Meet Our Veteran Pastors

Rev. Dr. Manuel M. Jinbachian



Rev. Dr. Manuel M. Jinbachian was born in Beirut, Lebanon on October 29, 1939 to Missag and Manoushag Jinbachian. He graduated in June 1956 from the Armenian Evangelical Central High School of Ashrafieh and later continued his studies at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and the Near East School of Theology (NEST) graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree from AUB and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from NEST. Soon after graduation, he went to Damascus, Syria to be pastor of two small churches where he served until July 1965.

In August 1965, he went to Egypt to be pastor of the two Armenian Evangelical Churches in Cairo and Alexandria, at the same time continuing his studies for a Master of Arts degree in history.

Rev. Jinbachian returned to Beirut after four years to teach at Haigazian College. Upon his return to Beirut, he married Hasmig Terzian who was secretary to the President of NEST, and they had two daughters Nania and Lori.

After serving at Haigazian College, Rev. Jinbachian went to Oxford University - Pembroke College, to specialize in Armenian studies. Within three years, he graduated with B.Litt. degree in Armenian studies and returned to Beirut in 1975 to continue teaching at Haigazian College where he taught for six more years. While at Haigazian College, he met Dr. William Reyburn, who was a United Bible Societies (UBS) officer in charge of Bible translations in the Middle East and South Asia. When Dr. Reyburn learned that Rev. Jinbachian knew Hebrew and ancient Greek, Armenian, Arabic and Turkish, he asked him to join the United Bible Societies to become a translation advisor. Rev. Jinbachian accepted the offer to be a translation advisor for the Middle East.

Being a translation advisor at this time was both very challenging and interesting. The civil war in Lebanon

that started in 1975 made it difficult for Rev. Jinbachian to travel because the airport would often close, so he could not visit the countries where he was appointed as translation advisor. Due to this situation in Beirut, he was asked to go to France for one year to study until the civil war in Lebanon was over. Later he was asked to go to Strasbourg where the Regional Translation Coordinator, Dr. Jan de Waard, lived.

During this year he was able to complete all the courses that were necessary to qualify to write a doctoral thesis while continuing his work with the Bible Society. His position with the Bible Society took him all over Europe and the former Soviet Union.

He served in this position until 2002, when he was sent to Montreal by the UBS Europe Middle East office in London to teach Bible translation in the two universities of Montreal. He and his family moved to Montreal and he began to teach in the two universities: McGill in English and Université de Montreal in French. He taught for nine years, until 2011, when he turned 72 years old. He then became a retired UBS officer living in Montreal with his wife and close to both of his daughters and their families.

Rev. Jinbachian continues in the same position and continues to be the translation advisor for the western Armenian Bible translation with the two translators who are Archbishops. The New Testament and the Psalms are already translated and printed. Rev. Jinbachian and the Archbishops will continue to work until they finish the Old Testament. May God give him and the translators the energy and mind power to finish this important task.

Rev. Jinbachian recently published his third book entitled *The Classic Armenian Bible, its Sources and Translation Technique*. □

Armenian Evangelical Church Athens, Greece

100,000 Armenians, 3,000 of whom were Armenian Evangelicals, settled in different parts of Greece in 1920-22 after the catastrophe of Smirna and Asia Minor.

In 1922 they established churches in Athens in four refugee camps, and one church in Thessaloniki. In other parts of Greece, like Corfu, Sira, Kios, Kefalonia, Corinth and Cavala, small congregations were also formed where spiritual and educational ministries were established, some short term and others for longer terms.

Because of the country's financial situation, many Armenians fled Greece in 1932 and later, especially in 1946-47, many emigrated to Soviet Armenia. As a result, the number of Armenians drastically declined, leaving around 20,000 Armenians and only 120 Armenian Evangelical families all over Greece.

Besides the organized churches in Athens and Thessaloniki many spiritual leaders were ministering in different parts of Greece, bringing a significant service to Evangelicals and Armenians. Among those were Badveli Alexan Garabedian a preacher in Sira, where Sema Kuyumjian was a teacher at the Girls School in Marzvan. Stepan Abroian worked with the Bible Society. Badveli Nishan Begian was the right hand of Miss Koushman, the Headmaster of the orphanage. There was also Mrs. Begian and Merry Heghinian and Rev. Hovsep Jejizian in Corfu with the British Mission, whose representative was Miss Berjes. In Derghouti (Athens) and the Kokkinia area, the first

Pastor was Rev. Garabed Stanboulian.

Kokkinia (near the Pirea port) was one of the other refugee camps for Armenians as well as Greeks from Asia Minor, where an Armenian Evangelical Church was established in 1922. The first official Pastor was Rev. Roupen Kayaian who served the Church from 1923-1927. Rev. Krikor Demirdjian resumed the ministry of the Armenian Evangelical churches of Kokkinia and Derghouti until his death in 1985. Despite his blindness he was a bright, rhetorical and visionary person, a graduate of the School of Religion of Athens. He served with great commitment and was well liked and respected by all, Armenians and Greeks alike. His best friend and coworker was Rev. Mihran Renjilian, who together with Rev. Demirjian, ran the school and the church and many other ministries like Christian Endeavor Union, Summer DVBS, and feeding the neighbors in times of war.



Rev. Vicken Cholakian, current Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Kokkinia, Greece.



The Armenian Evangelical Church of Kokkinia.



The Youth Group of the Church with Rev. Krikor Demirjian - 1950s.

In Greece, more than 15 Armenian pastors and leaders have served the community.

After the passing of Rev. Krikor Demirjian, visiting pastors filled the gap for two years, until Rev. Mher Khatchigian took the ministry of Kokkinia and Neos Kosmos churches for six and a half years. In 1993 he left the Church and went to Canada to minister the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal. Soon after Rev. Vicken V. Cholakian resumed the ministry as the head Pastor of the churches. Since 2008 the ministry in the Neos Kosmos church has been halted because of the absence of families living around the church. The rest joined the church in Kokkinia.

Since the 1970s there has been no Armenian Evangelical community in Thessaloniki and thus no church or ministry. Since 2012, Samvel Mayilian, a young Armenian from Armenia and a graduate of a theological seminary, has been ministering a small community in the city and helping, to reach out to refugees while being a volunteer pastor. Rev. Vicken Cholakian has been visiting this small Branch Church in Thessaloniki occasionally.

Currently within the Kokkinia Church, the active organizations are the Women's Auxiliary, a Youth Group, a Sunday School, a Kindergarten and the Arevig Bookstore, which was the vision of Salpi Cholakian, the late wife of the pastor, and is the only Armenian Bookstore in the country.

The Church and its pastor Rev. Cholakian have built a close fellowship with the sister churches and often together they organize joint events on certain occasions and pay cordial visits to each other.

The Church is grateful to the many individuals and organizations who have and continue to support this church, believing in the ministry throughout the years in this part of "Bible Lands." American, German, British and Danish missions have supported the Church especially in the early years when Armenians fled the Genocide and settled down in Greece. In addition, from its early days up until now, the Church recognized the faithful support of the Armenian Missionary Association of America without whom our ministry would have been crippled. □



The late Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian, former Executive Director of the AMAA, honors veteran Pastor Krikor Demirjian, with a Golden Medal on June 13, 1982, for his 55 years of faithful service to the Armenian Evangelical Community of Greece.



Kokkinia Church children at a Daily Vacation Bible School.



The Arevig Bookstore of the Church.



Sunday School children celebrate Palm Sunday.



The Armenian Missionary Association of America

A Legacy of Faith, Love, and Service

By Rev. John Khanjian, Ph.D.

Part II

100 Years of Devoted Leadership

Institutions, whether they are educational, ecclesiastical, or benevolent need a person to provide leadership, receive communication from the field and respond appropriately under the parameters set by the Board. Although the first attempt had failed, Rev. Kalaidjian was rehired and served a little over three years, of which two years as mission pastor and one year as Executive Secretary of the AMAA. Rev. Antranig A. Bedikian filled the position of Executive Secretary on and off for fifteen years without financial compensation. Rev. Manasseh G. Papazian became Secretary for only one year (1928 – 1929), and for lack of funds, he returned to his parish in Fresno, CA. During the hard years of the Great Depression, Rev. Dr. Yervant Hadidian assumed the leadership on a half-time basis from September 12, 1930 to 1935. One of his significant contributions was the establishment of the Joint AMAA and American Board Cooperative Committee, which enabled the AMAA to work with the Congregational Board on joint mission work in the Middle East where the greatest number of survivors of the Genocide had settled. He was succeeded by Rev. Nishan Begian who was employed on a one-third time basis until his death in 1943. As mentioned, Rev. Bedikian took the helm once again in 1946, when the Armenian Evangelical Churches were celebrating their 100-year anniversary, and played a very significant role in the success of the Centennial Fund Campaign.

Upon the recommendation of Rev. Bedikian, "a full-time and fully equipped Executive was hired on September 20, 1946 in the person of Rev. Puzant H. Kalfayan"⁷ who was well prepared with his university and theological training. He also had intimate knowledge of the Near East, its church culture, and institutions; he was conversant in five languages, which he used in the field.

By this time, the mission field had expanded beyond the Middle East (Eastern and Western Armenia, Lebanon, Syria, Greece, Cyprus) and included Iran, France, Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. Rev. Kalfayan was aware of the growing need and became the bridge of hope for the needy and destitute people. He had a caring personality and put in great effort to meet the growing need of the various communities. I met him once in Beirut; since we had corresponded previously, I just wanted to see this good man. His handsome and gracious presence and humility left a big impression on my young mind. As Rev. Giragos H. Chopourian reports, within two years of his appointment, Rev. Kalfayan doubled the revenue. From 1946–1948, the Centennial Fund grew to \$154,000, \$19,000 of which came from the Near East. In order to encourage greater participation in the endeavors of the Association, he increased the number of the leaders. Rev. Kalfayan, being aware of the need for well-trained teachers for the schools in Syria and Lebanon, initiated the Teacher Training Institute in Beirut, Lebanon, which after serving its purpose for a few years, was succeeded by Haigazian College in 1955. He also initiated the Child Education Sponsorship program which continues to this day supporting

many students with their education in the Middle East and Armenia. On the occasion of the AMAA's forty years of services, Rev. Kalfayan embarked on an ambitious One Million Dollar Fortieth Anniversary Campaign in May 1959. Unfortunately, as the Campaign was to commence, his heart failed and he passed away on May 26, 1959 to the dismay of all who knew and loved him. With his untimely death, as well as with his life, Rev. Kalfayan inspired the fundraising committees to surpass their efforts and secure a handsome amount for



Armenian youth from the interiors of Turkey who were brought to the Youth Home of Istanbul.

the Fortieth Anniversary Campaign. During his thirteen years of service with the AMAA, he became the face and symbol of the AMAA, and what it stands for. Blessed is his memory.

The Rev. Edward Tovmassian left his loving congregation of Greater Detroit and took the helm of the AMAA leadership for nine years before retiring in 1968 due to a heart problem. "His parental image, soft sell, friendly and winning visitations, his touching sermons added further to the growing image of the AMAA."⁸

During his tenure, the Istanbul Youth Home for Children, that attracted youth from the interiors of Turkey, was supported and the numbers grew, eventually reaching 1,500 students. He was able to secure sponsors for these Armenians who were saved from Turkification. Upon Rev. Tovmassian's sudden retirement, the Board began to search for a permanent Executive. Steven Mardigian became acting Executive Director from September 11, 1968 to December 11, 1968.

On January 1, 1969, the Rev. Dr. Giragos Haroutune Chopourian was installed into the position of Executive Secretary which he held until 1975, when his title changed to Executive Director. This change was in response to the increased administrative responsibilities and multiplicity of projects. The AMAA had come of age with increased popularity, financial resources, and opportunities for service. He served close to 19 years and retired officially on August 1, 1987. Rev. Chopourian left a legacy of growth in contributions, extensive service projects, and a well-tuned organization.

"When he assumed the position, he inherited a little under \$2,000,000: at his retirement the Association's total net worth

The Inauguration of the new Headquarters of AMAA on Century Rd. Paramus, NJ - George Philibosian, Rev. Movses Janbazian and Andy Torigian - October 1998.



seven or more school buildings in Lebanon; campaigned for a Ministerial Retirement Fund for the Near East Union of Churches for \$100,000...; established the AEUNA/AMAA Home Missions Committee,⁹ and many other projects such as the organization of the Armenian Evangelical World Conference out of which grew the Armenian Evangelical World Council that unites the world-wide five Armenian Evangelical Unions.

The Rev. Dr. Movses Boghos Janbazian was hired as the first Field Director of the AMAA, and he served in this capacity from September 1980 to July 1987. Beginning on August 1, 1987, he assumed the responsibilities of the Executive Director. Rev. Chopourian and Rev. Janbazian collaborated and participated in the AMAA ministry for almost seven years. It is worth noting that since Rev. Janbazian's appointment there has been a phenomenal growth in funds and projects. The additional projects were in a way imposed on the AMAA by the political upheavals that swept the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon, Armenia, and Artsakh. Rev. Janbazian was faced with the sixteen-year long Lebanese Civil War which devastated every church and school in Lebanon, created massive immigration, poverty, suffering, unemployment, and disruption of the academic life of the students. Rev. Janbazian visited the war-torn Beirut several times offering hope and help to those in need. After the collapse of the Soviet Union on December 25, 1991, Armenia became Independent, Artsakh voted for independence and the Artsakh and Azeri war broke out. Prior to that was the catastrophe of the 1988 earthquake, which devastated many cities and towns in Armenia. These were very challenging times, which demanded great leadership and assistance. Rev. Janbazian utilized to the maximum the AMAA resources to meet the needs of the wounded, hungry, homeless, and destitute of our people. The AMAA renewed its commitment to Armenia, and began the Sponsorship program, the brainchild of a few visionary and devoted women, encouraged and embraced by Rev. Janbazian. The Orphan and Child Sponsorship Program remains the longest continuing AMAA program in Armenia having served tens of thousands of children over the years.

He established the AMAA offices in Armenia and Artsakh, which became the helping arm by providing clothing, food, medical help, and financial and educational assistance to countless people. In addition to the above, Rev. Janbazian carried the heavy responsibility of the relocation of the AMAA Headquarters from 140 Forest Avenue to the newly acquired Headquarters at 31 West Century Road in Paramus, NJ. In his vision for Armenia, he had a strong conviction that the Evangelical Church of Armenia

The official opening of the AMAA Headquarters on Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ. With Executive Director Rev. Giragos Chopourian, Benefactor Ruth Philibosian and AMAA President George Philibosian.



amounted to \$25,538,088. In the same period the budgets were \$160,245 and \$1,753,606 respectively. This kind of growth enabled the Association to intensify its support of the established services for churches, publications, schools, charitable institutions, handicapped groups and many other human services. But it also made it possible to engage in new programs, among which, to name a few, were: adding the Uniting Church of Australia into the program; the purchase of the IPC building for Haigazian College (funded by the Mugar family); princely contribution by Miss Ruth Philibosian for the construction of a seven-story building for the Yeprem and Martha Philibosian School in Beirut; shared expenditure with Steve Philibosian of a quarter million dollars to build and/or improve

needed well-prepared pastors who could think theologically in Armenian. Thus, on April 21, 1997, the Evangelical Theological Academy of Armenia was inaugurated which was endowed with an adequate library, and produced a large number of graduates.

After the war in Lebanon, the physical structures of our schools and churches needed renovation; again, Rev. Janbazian wisely provided resources to build and resume the educational and religious life of our broken and depressed community in Lebanon. His untimely death on September 25, 2000 disrupted the completion of the 23 countries mission of the "man of vision." The U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, Michael C. Lemmon aptly eulogized him, "Rev. Janbazian was a man of bright intellect, vision, and integrity who put his talents to good use to help in the spiritual revival of his people and the development of Armenia. He was a true leader and his loss will be felt for a long time."¹⁰



Rev. John Khanjian, Ph.D.
is the past President of Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon.

FOOTNOTES

7. *Ibid* p.4

8. *Ibid*. p.5

9. *Ibid*. p.5-6

10. Rev. Dr. Movses B. Janbazian, *Man of Vision With a Mission* (AMAA, 2002), p.200

* The author is grateful to Louisa Janbazian for reviewing, proofreading and filling the lacuna in his information.

Ambassador Lemmon's words were prophetic in that it has been a difficult task to find a person to fill his shoes.

To be continued in the next issue



Official Call to the 99th Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America

The 99th Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) will be held on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the United Armenian Congregational Church, 3480 Cahuenga Blvd. West, Los Angeles, CA 90068. All members of the AMAA are invited to attend the Meeting to:

- I. Consider and approve the reports of the Officers, Committees, Chapters and Affiliated Boards of the Association for the fiscal year 2017-2018;
- II. Review the financial reports for the fiscal year 2017-2018;
- III. Announce the names of the newly elected Board members;
- IV. Elect members to the Nominating Committee;
- V. Elect an Auditor; and
- VI. Consider and address any other business that may come before the membership.

PROGRAM OF THE 99th ANNUAL MEETING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Thursday, October 18 at the United Armenian Congregational Church, Los Angeles

- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm Armenian Evangelical World Council Meeting

Friday, October 19 at the United Armenian Congregational Church, Los Angeles

- 9:30 am Armenian Evangelical World Council Meeting
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm AMAA Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, October 20 at the United Armenian Congregational Church, Los Angeles

- 9:00 am 99th Annual Meeting
- 12:30 pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm AMAA Board of Directors Meeting (Short Session)

Saturday, October 20 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles

- 6:00 pm Reception
- 7:00 pm Banquet

Sunday, October 21 at the United Armenian Congregational Church, Los Angeles

- 11:00 am 99th Annual Meeting Worship Service and installation of AMAA officers
- 12:00 pm Light Lunch





Centennial Reflections

"...as we celebrate [the AMAA's Centennial] accomplishments, we pay tribute to the founders who had the vision and the courage in establishing a Christian humanitarian organization ... serving all Armenians in need of education, humanitarian services, and establishing churches and institutions in a diverse community. Today we salute AMAA for its continued success with newer challenges for generations to come with God's blessings."

Elizabeth and Mihran Agbabian

"The joy on the beaming faces of Armenian children, the students at the AMAA Avedisian School and Community Center, bespeak the confluence of AMAA's Mission with those most disadvantaged and in greatest need. This intervention traces its roots to the time when Armenian orphans were separated from their parents and siblings by the Genocide, when churches were destroyed, and our faith was tested. Our thoughts and prayers are with the martyred many, and in all places around the world where the AMAA has provided hope and support, continuing this legacy today. We congratulate the AMAA on 100 years of exemplary work fulfilling God's mandate for each of us to wholeheartedly serve others."

Judge Alice and Ronald Altoon

"We praise God and give Him all the glory for the work and accomplishments that the AMAA has, is, and will continue to do in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. During its 100 years, many lay leaders and pastors gave their time and energy in serving our Armenian people through spiritual, educational, and humanitarian work while keeping the goal the same ~ honoring God. May the Lord bless those who have served, and bless the memory of those who are no longer with us. May He grant

wisdom to the current servants, as He prepares more faithful servants for the future. It is a joyous occasion to not only reflect on what God has done through AMAA, but anxiously look forward for the things that He will do in the next 100 years."

Rev. Dr. Ara Chakerian

"AMAA has touched many lives throughout its history of 100 years, by helping thousands of students get scholarships, helping establish churches all over the world, helping Armenians in our motherland relearn about their Christian identity, establishing social service centers, children's summer camps, helping war torn Syrian Armenians, establishing and supporting the only Armenian University in the diaspora... God bless the AMAA, and may it celebrate its 200th anniversary..."

Berjouhy Gulessarian

"The calling of the AMAA is clear... Long ago it surrendered to a mission of love. With grateful hearts, the AMAA community awakens each day to strive to bring pieces of heaven to earth through loving acts... The first AMAA century was one of deep faith and devotion that remained steadfast, even during the darkest hours. The second AMAA century will be one of hope and rebirth as the fruits of the spirit manifest and flourish... every day, AMAA strives so that the love that "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things (*1 Corinthians 13:7*)" will be realized in word and deed... I am grateful to the AMAA for providing a conduit through which we can all manifest our faith."

Susan Jerian, MD

"My earliest awareness of the AMAA was when I was a young child. I remember the first time that Reverend Puzant Kalfayan came to our home for a visit. I was about eight years old. I recall him coming on behalf of the AMAA and requesting my parents' financial

support. His sincerity and conviction made an indelible impression on me. The next situation that aroused my awareness and desire to be involved with the AMAA was a number of years ago when we had a Mission Sunday at the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles. The emphasis of the presentation was to support child education in Armenia and the Middle East. That plea really touched my heart and was the catalyst that encouraged me to become both physically and financially committed to the AMAA."

Ken Kevorkian

"My sister Louise and I spent teen years in our Philibosian home, welcoming Armenians from throughout the world. Doors were particularly opened for the many devoted leaders of AMAA. Our parents became irresistibly drawn to their praiseworthy mission, and established AMAA's first endowment fund. That fulfilled vision has supported AMAA's amazing outreach for seven decades: may it continue to bless in the decades to come!"

Joyce Stein on behalf of the Philibosian Family

"I learned of the AMAA's work through my Dad, Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian during his tenure as Executive Director of the AMAA. He was committed to the work of serving people across many countries. The mission of the AMAA was and is to help improve the lives of people who face a variety of difficulties in their lives and in their countries. As an educator, I believe that one of the best ways to help improve lives is through providing educational opportunities for children. The AMAA is supportive of educational programs and hopefully will continue to expand these programs in their second century. It continues to be my privilege to serve on the AMAA Board."

Eileen Chopourian Stephey, Ed.D.

"One hundred years of unwavering service in 24 countries! How amazing is AMAA's feat!! How amazing was and is the devotion of all the selfless men and women of this organization, and its supporters world wide, who never, ever, strayed from Jesus' Great Commission to preach the Gospel and to care for 'one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine.' Matthew 25:40. What a privilege and blessing it has been to be a part of this ongoing effort!"

Michele Simourian

"After receiving a scholarship from AMAA I went to Haigazian with the intention of receiving a higher level of education, yet little did I know at the time my attendance at the University would set the path for my entire life to follow. There I met the man who would become my husband, Hagop Terjimanian... Haigazian for me, just as with Armenian culture, means love, life, and family. All of the above happened because of the scholarships we received from AMAA. AMAA not only shaped our lives but the lives of thousands of students who would otherwise be deprived of a prosperous future. I congratulate AMAA on their Centennial and support their efforts."

Anahid K. Terjimanian

"The AMAA [has earned] our support because they operate in a transparent fashion and stay true to their mission which includes delivering aid to the needy, providing education to children, and creating places of worship designed to spread the message of Christianity to so many corners of the world. This type of work is exactly what makes us proud Armenians."

Andy and Hayde Torosyan

(You may read the Centennial Reflections in their entirety at www.amaa.org/about/CentennialReflections)

Our Evangelical Forbearers in Worcester, MA

Most of us know that the Armenian Missionary Association of America was founded in the city of Worcester, Massachusetts in 1918. What we may not know is the rest of the story. Namely, how did those Armenians get to a place where they had the wherewithal to take such a step? To answer that question, it is helpful to know a little of the history of our evangelical forbearers in Worcester.

The Armenian Evangelical community traces its origins in Worcester to prayer meetings held in 1881. There were Protestant services held on Sundays at the Summer Street Chapel. As early as 1889, the Worcester City Missionary Society saw that they had a duty to help the Armenian community and they assigned Rev. Milan Hitchcock to provide pastoral work among the Armenians. He had lived in Constantinople as a missionary, knew Armenian history and spoke the language fluently.

Under Rev. Hitchcock, the church was organized and recognized on January 1, 1892 as the Armenian Evangelical Church (today known as the Armenian Church of the Martyrs). By 1896, Rev. Khachadour Benneyan was called and with his leadership, the congregation flourished and plans were made to build a new

church. On May 30, 1901, there was a groundbreaking ceremony with Dr. John Berry, supporter and president of the City Missionary Society, presiding. The building is still in use in Worcester today.

Rev. Benneyan left the pulpit in 1904, having organized the Christian Endeavor Youth Society in 1900 and the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America in 1902. He was followed by Rev. Garabed Manavian, an 1884 graduate of Euphrates College, who

remained in the pulpit until 1918, the year the Armenian Missionary Association of America



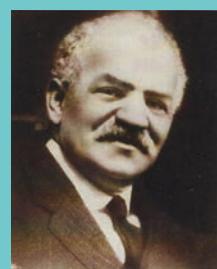
Armenian Church of the Martyrs, Worcester, MA.



Rev. Khachadour G. Benneyan, Pastor of the Worcester Church 1896-1904, AMAA President 1942-1944.



A group of Armenian Evangelicals in Worcester - 1900s.



Rev. Garabed M. Manavian, Pastor of Worcester Church 1904-1918.

So it can be seen that the AMAA, founded in response to the dire condition of our people in

the Near East, was an outgrowth, in great part, of the supportive American and the Armenian communities in Worcester in the period prior to the Genocide.

Joseph Zeronian, Ed.D.
AMAA President 2013-2015



Worcester Church congregation early 1900s.



Under the Auspices of Artsakh State Minister Mr. Harutyunyan, AMAA's Centennial Celebrations Down Under Raises \$200,000 for the Renovation Project of Artsakh KGs

To celebrate its 100 years of outstanding service to the worldwide Armenian communities and its fundraising Campaign **Faithful to Its Legacy and Embracing the Future**, the AMAA and its partners are organizing worldwide Centenary Celebrations during 2017-18. The first one was held in New Jersey, USA on October 21, 2017.

Following the first centenary event, the second event was held Down Under March 15-18, 2018 in Sydney, Australia and was organized by the Armenian Missionary Association of Australia under the leadership of its President/CEO Rev. Dr. Krikor Youmshajekian. To partake in AMAA's Centennial fundraising effort, AMA-Australia elected to renovate AMAA's four KGs in Artsakh: the Hagop and Lydia Baghdkian KG in Stepanakert, the Hagop Garebed Bilezikian KG in Shushi, the Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian KG in Martakert, and the Askeran KG. The events were held under the auspices of His Excellency Mr. Arayik Harutyunyan, State Minister of the Republic of Artsakh, who was specially invited by AMA-Australia to participate in the celebrations representing the Republic of Artsakh and its President Mr. Bako Sahakyan. Many overseas guests from Armenia, France, Lebanon, Syria and the United States were also present including Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, President of the AMAA, and Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA.



Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, AMAA President (left) and Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO (right), present a special gift of appreciation to Rev. Dr. Krikor Youmshajekian, President/CEO of AMA-Australia.

The Centennial Celebrations in Sydney commenced on Thursday, March 15 with a special screening of Director Jivan Avetisyan's 'The Last Inhabitant' movie, the story of the 1988 expulsion of an Armenian village Gyurjevan in Azerbaijan, USSR. The screening held in Hoyts Movie Theater was open to the public. The following night, March 16, a cultural event celebrating the AMAA Centenary was held at the prestigious Concourse Theater and showcased performances by various Armenian and non-Armenian artists. Many distinguished guests were present at both events, including representatives of Federal and State officials, Representatives of the Uniting Church of Australia and His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Australia and New Zealand. Artsakh State Minister Mr. Harutyunyan expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the invitation and for all the efforts by the AMAA in support of our beloved Artsakh. The cultural event concluded with a Benediction offered by Primate Bishop Najarian.

The AMAA Centennial Worship Service was held on Sunday March 18 at the Armenian Evangelical Uniting Church of Sydney led by the Pastor of the Church Rev. Hagop Sarkissian. The Sanctuary and the adjacent Hall where the service was fed on a large screen were filled to capacity. Among the worshippers were His Excellency Mr. Harutunyan, State Minister of Artsakh; Mr. Kaylar Michaelian, Permanent Representative of Artsakh in Australia; NSW Premier Honorable Gladys Berejiklian; Her Worship Mayor Gail Giles-Gidney of the City of Willoughby; Rob Floyed representing



L to R: Rev. Jaques Tchoghandjian, Rev. René Léonian, Artsakh State Minister Arayik Harutyunyan, Rev. Dr. Krikor Youmshajekian, Rev. Haroutune Selimian, Rev. Berdj Djambazian, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, Zaven Khanjian and Rev. Gevorg Gasparyan.

the President of the Uniting Church in Australia Stuart McMillan, and many distinguished guests.

A special plaque was presented to Premier Berejiklian who greeted the audience and expressed her thanks for this special award. She congratulated the AMAA for its 100 years of faithful service and wished the Association many more years of outstanding service. Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, addressed the congregation and brought the greetings of the worldwide AMAA family. Rev. Dr. René Léonian, President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Eurasia, delivered the message and spoke about the mission of the AMAA in particular and the mission of the Armenian Evangelical churches worldwide in general. All the guest ministers from overseas participated in the Worship Service with prayers and reading of the Scriptures.

The highlight of the Centennial events was the Banquet held at the Miramare Gardens in Sydney. Among the 280 guests, there were many distinguished guests, including representatives of the Uniting Church of Australia, His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Australia and New Zealand and Father Parsegh (Basil) Sousanian of the Armenian Catholic Parish Community of Our Lady of the Assumption. AMAA President Dr. Darakjian in his remarks recounted a brief history of the AMAA and highlighted some of the giants of the Association such as Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian and Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian. "It is our duty to be faithful to this legacy and pass it on to future generations," said Dr. Darakjian. AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian delivered the keynote speech, concluding, "Looking forward, the AMAA is on track with an ongoing journey of goodness. God has called the AMAA to face our nation's spiritual and humanitarian challenges and assume a leadership role. We are called to continue to sow hope, win a smile, realize a dream, feed the hungry and save a soul." Mr. Khanjian thanked all those involved in this memorable and historic celebration.

During the Banquet a special tribute was paid to the late Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian, former Executive Director of the AMAA, for his faithful service and his vision to establish AMA-Australia as a branch of the AMAA 18 years ago. A Pontifical Encyclical (Gontag) by His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia was read by Rev. Dr. Youmshajekian and presented to Rev. Janbazian's wife Louisa Janbazian. Vahak Janbazian, on behalf of the Janbazian family, thanked everyone for this special tribute bestowed upon his

father. Hagop Janbazian, Rev. Janbazian's brother, who could not be present at this special event, eloquently expressed his gratitude for this special tribute via a video presentation.

Rev. Dr. Youmshajekian, on behalf of AMA-Australia, presented special plaques to the sponsors, donors and guests and to Mr. Harutunyan, who graciously travelled to Australia to be part of these special Centenary celebrations.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Harutunyan once again thanked AMA-Australia for this special invitation to represent the Artsakh Republic. Mr. Harutunyan spoke about the current situation in Artsakh. "I praise the AMAA's mission in Artsakh" he said, "and particularly the work it does for the welfare of the children who are our future generations."

The Banquet concluded with the singing of the Hayr Mehr (The Lord's Prayer) and a Benediction delivered by Rev. Berdj Djambazian, President of the Armenian Evangelical World Council.

During the course of the week, the overseas guests paid official visits to Primate Najarian of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Father Sousanian of the Armenian Catholic Parish as well as to the Hamazkaine Galstaun College and AGBU Alexander Primary School. □



PHOTO CREDIT: AREN GASPAR

Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, AMAA President, with NSW Premier Honorable Gladys Berejiklian.



A visit with His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Australia and New Zealand. L to R: Rev. Krikor Youmshajekian, Rev. Hagop Sarkissian, Rev. René Léonian, Rev Berdj Djambazian, Bishop Haigazoun Najarian, Zaven Khanjian, Rev. Haroutune Selimian, Rev. Gevorg Gasparyan and Rev. Aram Babajanyan.



Rev. Dr. Krikor Youmshajekian (left) presents a Commemorative Plaque to Artsakh State Minister Araig Harutyunyan.

AMAA Centennial Celebrations in Canada

The Armenian Missionary Association of Canada (AMAC) with the cooperation of the local churches organized Centennial Celebrations for the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) on the weekend of May 12 both in Toronto, ON and Montreal, QC.

Centennial Celebration in Toronto

By Dr. Ani Janbazian Hasserjian

The AMAA's Centennial Celebration in Toronto was held on Saturday, May 12 at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto. With the efforts of the Toronto Church Board members and a special Centennial Committee, over 275 guests attended a Celebratory Concert.

In her welcoming words and opening remarks, Chair of the Organizing Committee Dr. Ani Janbazian Hasserjian noted that the gathering was a celebration of faithful service and commitment to "serve the physical and spiritual needs of people everywhere" by the AMAA for 100 years and by the AMAC for almost 35 years.

Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, delivered a message on behalf of the AMAA followed by a video presentation which reflected "A Legacy of Faith, Love and Service" of the AMAA for the past 100 years.

Four talented young artists presented "A Musical Journey" program performing the works of Alan Hovhannes, Arno Babajanyan, Frederic Chopin, Komitas, Bizet and a series of Armenian "Memorable Songs." Dr. Rupert Abdalian, a talented concert pianist and a medical doctor, is a graduate of McGill Music Conservatory and Faculty of Medicine. Sona Hovsepyan, a talented vocalist is a graduate of the Komitas State Conservatory of Music of Yerevan, Armenia with a master's degree in Music. Duduk player Vahan Ourooudyan is a graduate of Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan,

Gyumri Branch. Well known pianist/accompanist Talin Artinian Kelebozian is a graduate of the Damascus State Conservatory as well as the Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan and accompanied the soloist very professionally in her repertoire. All four of these musicians are regular contributors to the Sunday church service liturgy at Armenian Churches in Toronto.

By the request of the audience, under the influence of "the long-standing ovations," the musical program concluded with "How Great Thou Art," sung by Hovsepyan and accompanied by Abdalian and Ourooudyan.

The celebration of the AMAA's Centennial could not be possible without acknowledging the hard work and contribution of some of the members of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto.

Mihran Jizmejian, President of AMAC, was recognized with a citation, as a sign of appreciation and respect, for his dedicated hard



Rev. Yesayi Sarmazian presents a plaque to Andy Lousararian.



Rev. Hovhannes Sarmazian presents the Citation to Mihran Jizmejian.





L to R: Mihran Jizmejian, Rev. Hovhannes Sarmazian, Sona Khanjian, Rev. Yesayi Sarmazian, Zaven Khanjian, Dr. Ani Janbazian Hasserjian and Rev. Serop Megerditchian.

work. Mr. Jizmejian has faithfully served in the Middle East and in Canada at Armenian Evangelical Schools and for publications, churches, Christian endeavor societies, and youth groups as a principal, teacher, editor, minister's assistant and lecturer. Mr. Jizmejian was honored specially for being a Founding Board Member, Executive Secretary, Executive Director and current President of the AMAC. His devotion to the goals of the AMAA and AMAC as a volunteer for the past 35 years are exceptional and

are greatly appreciated. The citation was presented to Mr. Jizmejian by Rev. Hovhannes Sarmazian.

Antibas Lousararian was also acknowledged for his contributions to the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto Mission Committee. The plaque was presented to Mr. Lousararian by Rev. Yesayi Sarmazian.

After her closing remarks, Dr. Hasserjian invited Rev. Serop Megerditchian to conclude the Program with a Benediction.

The Celebration continued at Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian Church Hall with the cake cutting ceremony followed by an exquisite reception prepared by the Organizing Committee with the help of the Church Ladies Auxiliary members and served by the Youth of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto. The fellowship continued with those present enjoying a Silent Auction and reception.

Proceeds from the AMAA Centennial Celebration Musical Concert will be allocated to the Askeran Kindergarten of Artsakh.



The musicians. L to R: Vahan Oroudyan, Talin Artinian, Sona Hovsepian and Dr. Rupert Abdalian.

Centennial Celebration in Montreal

By Adom H. Boudjikanian, PhDpharm

The Armenian Missionary Association of Canada's Board of Executives appointed a task force of six people that joined in several harmonizing meetings to prepare the May 12th evening's social events to celebrate the Centennial of the AMAA at the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal.

At the Concert, MC Raffy Shnorhokian greeted the religious dignitaries including Armenian Apostolic and Catholic church priests, our reverends, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, President of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), the sponsors and the community.

As announced in the Program, the event's benefits were to be committed to the renovation of Artsakh's Askeran Kindergarten.

The Church's rich sonorization and decent acoustics provided a good venue for the Concert. The pianist/singer Gilbert Hovsepian and his band of three guitarists, a keyboardist and drummer, offered pieces in pop musical approach, influenced by the Armenian "estradayin" style and akin to the late Arno Babajanyan's compositional manner. It included some of Hovsepian's "personal inventions" as well. His last performance, the "Atonement song," illustrated the spirit of the "Mission." Hovsepian's father was assassinated in Iran, while preaching. Soprano Sylvie Demirjian-Nazarian sung solos, including an ornately "tremoloed" piece dedicated to Mother's Day. Her husband joined her in a duet sung

in close harmony. Koko Osgeritchian took over, singing with his large-scale covering voice. He was sustained by a "play-back" accompaniment."

As at some Armenian band concerts, in spite of the praiseworthy performance, the Concert was throbbing to the ears, given its high decibeled presentations.

The MC then invited the public to descend to the Church's underground meeting hall, following narrow corridors and staircases that otherwise facilitated the mingling of the attendees, some discovering old friends.





AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian.

Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal Rev. Hovhannes Svdjian's prayer, unwrapped the dinner service. Friends were teamed around 25 appetizers served at festive tables. A team of young people volunteered serving the main dishes, the drinks, and later, the coffee.

While enjoying the dinner, the guests were able to watch a DVD prepared by the AMAA,

describing its deeds. We had heard about these activities, but it was worthwhile seeing the results and putting names under the completed projects in Armenia and the Diaspora, which included renovated schools, dental and health clinics, and summer camps.

The above was completed by the comprehensive activity report of AMAA's President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, presented in flawless Armenian. In summary, he reminded the audience that 1918 was a crucial date, when the first Armenian independent

republic was created, submerged in inherent social, economic and continuation challenges. When wandering in the Syrian Desert, those who had endured massacres were asking "Lord, where are You?" His answer: American and German missionaries were saving orphans, British and French armies were kicking out the Turkish armies, and the 1918-founded AMAA was initiating its activities. The President's speech was referenced by 'ad hoc' extracts of Psalm XXIII such as "Even though I walk through the darkest valley; I will fear no evil, for You are with me."

The AMAA has continued its mission for a century. Its assistance has intensified since the 1988 earthquake, thanks to the visions of "titans" like Revs. Movses Janbazian, Giragos Chopourian, and Mr. Stephen Philibosian. The activities, spread out in Armenia and 24 countries of the Diaspora, include: establishment of funds for projects in Armenia such as the opening of the Avedisian School, summer camps and churches in Dilijan, Gyumri, and renovating churches in Syria.

The "centennial cake" was cut by Dr. Darakjian, helped by the six members of Montreal's Board. The Pastor of the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, Rev. Georges Dabbo's closing prayer ended the celebration. □



L to R: Jack Basmadjian, Dr. Adom H. Boudjikanian, Rev. Mardiros Eglenceyan, Rev. Hovhannes Svdjian, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, Rev. Georges Dabbo and Jack Kafesjian.

AMAA Receives Grant From the Grille Foundation

The Armenian Missionary Association of America is honored to be chosen as the recipient of a \$500,000 grant from the Grille Foundation to support our mission in the Homeland as well as benefit our schools and other AMAA programs.

"This extremely generous grant is a basket of both blessings and love," said Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA. "We are truly blessed and grateful to have been selected and we hope that this gift will serve as a noble model for other benefactors to follow. It will surely help us continue the important and much needed work that we do."

The funding will provide financial assistance for a student at Haigazian University and tuition sponsorships at several schools and for seminary students. It will also provide operation funds for the Avedisian School in Yerevan and the C & E Merdinian School in Sherman Oaks, CA.

In addition, the grant will help support the Milk Fund, Shogh Day Centers, Syria Relief, Artsakh Relief for families of wounded and martyred soldiers, provide Bibles for sponsored students, and aid AMAA's summer camps, Christmas and Christian Programs.

According to a spokesperson from the Grille Foundation, "We believe that the AMAA seeks to serve the Lord in the best and most efficient manner possible... we leave it to your discretion as to how the funds are best utilized."

The AMAA is immensely grateful for this generous and gracious grant reflecting the love and spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless the Grille Foundation and its officers.

The AMAA Centennial Celebration in Greater *Detroit*

By Rosette Tootikian

The Centennial Anniversary celebration of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) in the Greater Detroit area was held on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Armenian Congregational Church.

The district liaison of the 27-member Anniversary Fundraising Campaign of the Detroit area was Rosette Tootikian, who chaired the Anniversary Banquet and served as Master of Ceremonies.

The Banquet proved to be a great success with over 120 guests attending. The 14-member Committee was composed of Carole Basmadjian, Rose Beylerian, Ovsanna DerVartanian, Araxya Mikaelian Fernandes, Nariné Ghambaryan, Taline Hagopian, Alice Kakousian, Gariné Koundajian, Doris Krikorian, Nuné Mikaelyan, Araxie Terian, Rosette Tootikian and Ann Zartarian. The Committee not only prepared the menu, but also did the serving and after-meal clean up. After the sumptuous meal, a beautiful program was presented.

The Keynote Speaker for the evening was Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA Zaven Khanjian, who was introduced by Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council. Mr. Khanjian, with a ten-minute video and an appropriate address, skillfully explained the objectives of the 20-million-dollar fundraising campaign. He paid tribute to the founders of the AMAA in 1918, as well as those who endeavor to carry on the multi-faceted program of the Association. He ended his inspiring address by expressing his gratitude to God's grace in the past and His guidance in the future and challenged his audience to support the AMAA's missionary services.

The program also included some musical selections, performed by the talented guest soloist Arpy Aintablian of Los Angeles, CA. The soloist was introduced by Dr. Taline Hagopian, one of the driving forces of the Committee, who also prepared the special AMAA Anniversary cake. The soloist rendered six Armenian and English hymns and songs and was accompanied on the piano by our own Organist/Choir Director Susan Harrison. The audience expressed its appreciation to these beautiful renditions with enthusiastic applause.

The elegant Banquet concluded with the unison singing of the Hayr Mér and the Benediction by Rev. Tootikian.

On Sunday April 29, the Centennial Anniversary celebration continued during the morning Worship Service, when both Mr. Khanjian and Rev. Tootikian, with their respective English and Armenian messages and the guest soloist Mrs. Aintablian with her vocal rendition, led the congregation in worship. The preachers thanked God for the spiritual, philanthropic and missionary services of the AMAA to the Armenian people and beyond. □



Cutting the Centennial Cake. L to R: Zaven and Sona Khanjian, Rosette and Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian.

AMAA Sundays Celebrated in California, Canada, Pennsylvania and Michigan

Following the AMAA Board of Directors meeting on Sunday, March 4, 2018 at the C & E Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School in Sherman Oaks, CA, AMAA Sunday was celebrated at several Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) churches in the Greater Los Angeles area.

AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian visited the Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Church of Glendale (Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian, Pastor of the Church); Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian visited the Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church of Glendale (Rev. Dikran Shanlian, Pastor of the Church); West Coast Executive Director Levon Filian visited the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena (Rev. Kevork Terian, Pastor of the Church - now retired); Director of Finance David Aynejian visited the St. Nareg Armenian Church of Montebello (Rev. Joe Garabedian, Pastor of the Church); and AMAA Armenia Representative Harout Nercessian visited the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles (Rev. Dr. Ron Tovmassian, Senior Pastor of the Church).



AMAA West Coast Executive Director Levon Filian with some of the members of the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena, CA.



AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian (center) with the Board of Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Church of Glendale, CA.



The Sunday School of the Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Church of Glendale, CA.



AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian with some of the members of the Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church of Glendale, CA.



AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian at the Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church of Glendale, CA.

AMAA Sundays continued to be celebrated in other AEUNA churches in the months of April and May. Mr. Nercessian visited the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal (Laval), QC, Canada (Rev. Hovhannes Svadian, Pastor of the Church) on April 11 and the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, QC, Canada (Rev. Georges Dabbo, Pastor of the Church) on March 18, Mr. Filian visited the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of North Hollywood (Rev. Dr. Ara Chakerian, Pastor of the Church) on March 18, and Mr. Khanjian visited the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA (Rev. Edward Livingston, Interim Pastor of the Church) on April 15 and the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit (Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, Pastor Emeritus of the Church) on April 29.

During these important AMAA Sunday visits, the AMAA representative preached the Word of God from the pulpit, made a presentation on the AMAA's Mission and Programs, updated the congregations on the AMAA's Mission and Outreach Program in 24 countries around the world and answered questions about AMAA's programs and plans.

The AMAA extends special thanks to the pastors, councils and the congregations of the churches for their ongoing support and encouragement for the Mission and Outreach of the AMAA. □



AMAA Armenia Representative Harout Nercessian at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal (Laval), QC, Canada.



The Sunday School of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of North Hollywood, CA.



AMAA West Coast Executive Director Levon Filian at the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of North Hollywood, CA.



AMAA Armenia Representative Harout Nercessian at the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, QC, Canada.



AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA.



The Youth of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA.

C E N T E N N I A L

CAPITAL CAMPA

ARTSAKH



Children are born with an intuitive sense

Given a nurturing and supportive environment, abilities reveal themselves exponentially over time.

AMAA Kindergartens cultivate an atmosphere that respects the natural development of the child's curiosity and encourages the physical, social, emotional and cognitive development in a nurturing setting. Dedicated teachers and staff provide meaningful learning opportunities for children in a safe and happy environment. Each child is diligent, curious, and inquisitive, intellectually and emotionally, over the course of the school year.

A quality early childhood education remains a sound investment for communities at large because of the foundation established during the first years of life.

When you walk into any AMAA Kindergarten, you will notice the signs of a safe, nurturing environment: the student's smiling faces, their excited chatter, bright artwork adorning the walls, well-kept napping areas and nutritious meals served.

AMAA remains committed to maintaining a legacy of excellence in education which has been evident for over a century and continues to enable children of all ages to achieve their best.

The Building Blocks



Artsakh, which has a growing young population, has four AMAA kindergartens. These KGs are well known and greatly appreciated by both the parents and the authorities. The KGs provide indispensable services to the communities they serve in, such as:

- Quality education
- Nutritious meals to the children
- Supports parents and boosts employment

1. Hagop and Lydia Baghdikian KG in Stepanakert

established in 2001
Total number of children attending the Baghdikian KG is 120. For many years the Baghdikian KG was recognized as the best KG in Artsakh. Every year the KG receives more applicants than it can house.

The Capital Projects of Baghdikian KG are: *Plaster and paint the 350 square meters of fence and Planting trees and shrubs.*

2. Hagop Garabed Bilezikian KG in Shushi

established in 2001
Total number of children attending the Bilezikian KG is 70.

The Capital Projects of Bilezikian KG are: *Asphalt 1,000 sq. meters; Replace Windows; Replace the decaying floors; Landscaping and Replace the old furniture.*

3. Askeran KG

established in 2003
Total number of children attending the Askeran KG is 70.

IGN

ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

KGs

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The Capital Projects of Askeran KG are: **Replace windows; Replace the decaying floors; Landscaping and Replace the old furniture.**

4. Rev. Dr. Movses B. Janbazian KG in Martakert established in 2003

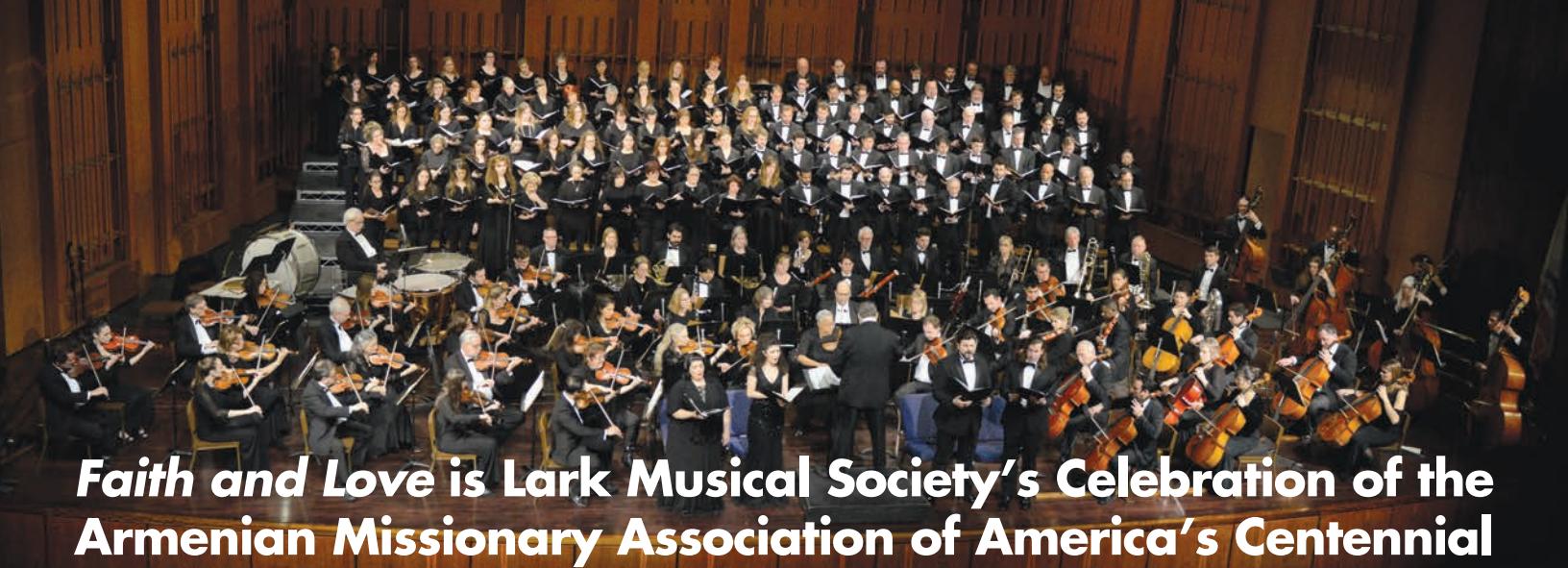
Total number of children attending the Janbazian KG is 70.

The Capital Projects of Janbazian KG are: **Central heating system; Asphalt 900 Sq. meters; Install drainage system under the asphalt (60 meters) for better protection; Add 110 meters of edge stones; Renovation of Rooms; Landscaping and Replacing the old furniture.**

Meet Gor

Gor is a bright student who attends the Hagop & Lydia Baghdikian Kindergarten in Stepanakert, Artsakh. He enjoys painting his favorite fairy-tale heroes and playing with his classmates. On the first day of school it was clear that Gor had never attended school and exhibited a speech delay. Because teachers view each child as an individual, a plan was developed to help Gor reach certain goals along his unique path. With the steady support and collaboration with his parents, teachers at the Kindergarten were able to help Gor flourish from the fragile, nonverbal student into a confident boy who enjoys coming to school every day.





Faith and Love is Lark Musical Society's Celebration of the Armenian Missionary Association of America's Centennial

By Elise Kalfayan

The day after a gentle rain, sunshine in the crisp late afternoon lit the scene perfectly as guests arrived for Lark Musical Society's celebration concert, "Faith and Love" at Pasadena's Ambassador Auditorium, Sunday, March 4, 2018. The program featured Anton Bruckner's tripartite **Te Deum**, a popular thanksgiving hymn that honors God's work among his believers, and Beethoven's **9th Symphony** with the Chorus "Ode to Joy," a masterpiece expressing the human longing for brotherhood and equality. It was a joyful and inspiring celebration of the Armenian Missionary Association of America's (AMAA) 100-year legacy of mission and service.

The AMAA was founded in 1918 in Worcester, Massachusetts by the Armenian Evangelicals to send aid overseas to survivors of the Armenian Genocide in the Near East. Its work has continued and expanded since then, now providing humanitarian aid, education, youth programs, and support for churches and Christian outreach in 24 countries. AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian honored its founders and leaders in his program notes, citing Psalm 135:3 and writing, *"Pleasant is the memory of the early visionaries, successive leadership and generations of unsung heroes whose gospel-illuminated path and selfless sacrifice led to miracles in the life of the nation."*

AMAA board members joined directors and staff, supporters, Lark Musical Society members and supporters, local dignitaries, and a full-house audience at the magnificent concert with the express desire to celebrate the AMAA's work in musical tribute. Many of the guests came from local Armenian Evangelical churches, and have long-standing ties to the AMAA, and fervent appreciation for its mission. This was the final event of a busy weekend as the AMAA Board of Directors held meetings March 2-3 in the Los Angeles Area, and five local churches hosted AMAA presentations Sunday morning.

Doris Melkonian, who holds a Master of Arts in Musicology from UCLA, delivered a pre-concert lecture. Those arriving early learned that Bruckner named his work after an ancient hymn which begins "Thee, O God, we praise" and he based its text on the Apostles' Creed.

Beethoven's **9th Symphony** is considered one of the greatest works in the Western musical tradition. Melkonian pointed out that the 1st movement starts with "the void" of the book of Genesis; while the exuberant chorus of the 4th movement celebrates joy, life, and God's divine blessings. She concluded, "Tonight, as the contemplative music of Bruckner and Beethoven transport us upward, we join in this joyful chorus of praise and give thanks to God. We praise God for the

miracles and the transformational work that have taken place through the programs initiated and sponsored by the Armenian Missionary Association of America."

Doors to the hall opened soon afterward and almost every seat was filled as Concert Committee Chair Ken Kevorkian welcomed guests and dignitaries. Rev. Dr. Ara Chakerian, Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America blessed the concert with an invocation.

Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, AMAA President, patron of the Lark Musical Society, and a member of the Lark Mastersingers, stepped forward to provide a stirring reflection on the founding of the Armenian Republic and the founding of the AMAA in 1918, one century ago:

For 100 years the AMAA served Armenian communities in the Diaspora, and after the disastrous earthquake that hit Armenia in 1988, the AMAA extended its activities to the Motherland also. Today, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formation of the AMAA, we are also celebrating the 100th anniversary of the rebirth of the Armenian nation, the rebirth of hope for a people who walked in the valley of the shadow of death, came face to face with the possibility of total annihilation, but survived.

Maestro Vatsche Barsoumian led the Lark Orchestra, Lark Mastersingers, and musical artists Shoushik Barsoumian (Soprano), Garineh Avakian (Mezzo-soprano), Berj Karazian (Tenor), and Abdiel Gonzalez (Baritone) in a tremendous and moving musical program that exceeded even the high expectations set by the evening's speakers. The Lark Musical Society, formed and supported by true artists, routinely excels in its beautifully curated and produced programs, and this was no exception. The performance was a wonderful achievement as well a fitting centennial tribute to the AMAA. Multiple ovations that followed the finale were well-deserved by all the outstanding artists and musicians who played in this Concert.

Maestro Barsoumian founded the Lark Musical Society, which includes a conservatory, musical education program for children, the Dilijan Chamber Series, and other successful musical and artistic endeavors. The first of many collaborations with the Lark Musical

Society and the AMAA initiated in 1996 when the Lark Choir was invited to Paris, France to perform during the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Armenian Evangelical Church.

In his concert notes, Maestro Barsoumian wrote that Lark has a focus on the cultural work of the Armenian people, but drew in this concert from the full canon of Western music. "This seems a fitting emulation of the truly global scale of the AMAA's mission, with its charitable efforts rendered worldwide to communities in need, even as it maintains a focus on enriching the lives, both spiritual and physical, of Armenians wherever it can." He concluded, "The spirit of these masterpieces is the spirit behind the good works of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. Long may they continue to serve. Long may they spread their Faith and Love." Amen. □

Merdinian School's 36th Anniversary Banquet Honors Dr. John and Mrs. Mary Kassabian

By Louisa Janbazian

On Sunday, May 6, 2018, friends and supporters of the C & E Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School gathered at Vertigo Hall in Glendale, CA to celebrate the School's 36th Anniversary Banquet.

After the welcoming remarks of the Banquet Co-Chair Rita Meneshian, MC Diana Mangioglu Nazarian invited Rev. Dr. Vartkes Kassouni, former Minister of the United Armenian Congregational Church and one of the pioneers of Merdinian School, for the invocation. Following the national anthems of the United States and Armenia, sung by a group of Merdinian students, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, President of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), delivered greetings from the AMAA and once again reassured the Association's continued support for the School.

Before inviting Principal Lina Arslanian to deliver her remarks, Mrs. Nazarian acknowledged the outstanding Armenian, Christian-based education provided by Merdinian School and praised the Principal and the teachers for their devotion. Mrs. Arslanian then shared some of the School's achievements and announced the School Board's decision to offer Armenian language instruction in both the Eastern and Western Armenian dialects beginning with the next academic year.

Alidz Agbabian, a gifted storyteller, entertained the guests by telling the folk tale of the legendary Gor who was one of the heroes of ancient Armenian legends.

After a delicious dinner, talented vocalist Anna Boyrazian entertained the guests with her beautiful voice, offering a selection of Armenian and classical songs. Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, Chairman of the School Board, greeted the guests and expressed



L to R: Honorees Mary and Dr. John Kassabian and Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, Chairman of the Merdinian School Board.

his appreciation to the Co-Chairs Rita Meneshian and Louisa Janbazian, and members of the Banquet Committee. Dr. Nalbandian then introduced the Honorees, Dr. John and Mrs. Mary Kassabian, and thanked them for their many years of support, friendship and hospitality. Over the years, the Kassabians hosted many Merdinian School fundraising events at their beautiful home in Pasadena. A gift and a certificate of recognition were presented to the Kassabians as a small token of appreciation.

Merdinian School PTO Treasurer Tamar Poladian-Perron presented a check for \$20,000 to the School. Likewise, the Women's Auxiliary Co-Chairs, Ani Hanessian and Louisa Janbazian, presented the School with a check for \$20,000 in support of the School's scholarship program.

The enjoyable evening concluded with a closing prayer by Pastor Harut Khachatryan, Youth Pastor of United Armenian Congregational Church.

The C & E Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School is the only Armenian Evangelical School in the United States. The School offers a broad-based curriculum that fosters academic excellence, high moral values, and spiritual enrichment in the Armenian Evangelical tradition. The School strives to create a safe and nurturing environment where every student receives personal attention to become a successful and responsible individual. □



Child and Orphan Care Luncheon and Fashion Show

"Once Upon a Time...In a Land Far Far Away"

Raises Money to Help Children in Armenia and Artsakh

The Beverly Hills Hotel's Crystal Ballroom was the beautiful setting for the AMAA's Child and Orphan Care Luncheon and Children's Fashion Show on March 10. The theme "Once Upon a Time...In a Land Far Far Away... Where Dreams Can Come True" helped signify the important work done by the AMAA to help dreams come true in Armenia and Artsakh. Luncheon Co-Chairs Betty Balian and Aleen Oruncakciel worked tirelessly to make every aspect of the Luncheon enjoyable for over 450 guests and supporters who attended. They warmly welcomed the guests and introduced the dynamic emcee for the day Jill Simonian Panossian, and also Leslie Kevorkian, who delivered a moving devotional and prayer.

The flowers, generously donated by Zareh David Ghoukasian of David Z Design, fit with this year's storybook theme. The Silent Auction was spectacular with more than 100 items to bid on. Argine Jean Kelegian and Nicole Nishanian, Silent Auction Co-Chairs, procured many amazing items, including designer bags, beautiful jewelry, and much, much more. There were many opportunities to help the needy children by sponsoring a child, providing meals at the day care centers, or by purchasing a Bible for the children to read. This effort was coordinated by Maro Najarian Yacoubian and Tina Segel, who organized the Child Sponsorship Program table and encouraged everyone to make a difference in the life of a needy child in Armenia. Many children were sponsored at the Luncheon.

Joyce Stein, esteemed Advisor and National Co-Chair of the Child and Orphan Care Committee, gave the opening remarks. Her daughter, Tina Segel, introduced a video showing the continuing need in Armenia and how AMAA's important ministry has helped thousands of Armenian children and their families for many generations.

The Children's Fashion Show was introduced by Sevana Ohanian and Christine Zenjiryan, who coordinated the Show which was sponsored and produced by Bloomingdale's Sherman Oaks. The Bloomingdale's Sherman Oaks team, along with the committee, worked tirelessly to make the Fashion Show a complete success and make sure the presentation of more than sixty amazing children and teenagers was perfect and seamless. Bloomingdale's was thanked for its partnership and participation in the event which is very much appreciated. Finance and Reservations Chair Sandra Kalemkarian works tirelessly every year to efficiently close out the Auction. "We are grateful for the very generous donations we received this year," said Sandra, "and especially for all the children who were sponsored."

The guests left the event with a bag full of goodies, including amazing nail care products donated by Jessica Vartoughian of Jessica Cosmetics, chocolate covered raisins from LindaKay Abdulian, cookies from Leslie Kevorkian and devotional books from Sandra Kalemkarian. The children and teenagers also received a gift bag donated by Ani Zakari. The beautiful bags for the goodies were



LA Area Child and Orphan Care Committee.



once again donated by Arsine Seraydarian,

In closing, Lori Muncherian and Arsine Phillips, West Coast Committee Co-Chairs, thanked the chairs, the entire committee and all the donors for their continued support of this event for the children in Armenia. Many children in Armenia lack the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter. "We are trying to help change a child's life and give hope for a better future one child at a time," said Lori and Arsine. If you would like to sponsor a child or make a donation, please contact the AMAA office at 201.265.2607, or visit the website at www.amaa.org. □



Luncheon Co-Chairs Betty Balian and Aleen Oruncakciel.



Class of 2018 Bids Farewell to Haigazian University

By Mira Yاردمنیان, HU Public Relations Director

On Saturday, May 26, 2018, Haigazian University conferred 121 undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University's 58th Commencement exercises, amidst an atmosphere of joyfulness, pride and ovation, sometimes mixed with moments of high emotion.

Among many dignitaries present were Minister of Tourism Avedis Guidanian, Member of Parliament Hagop Pakradounian, the Armenian Ambassador to Lebanon Samvel Mkrdchyan, the President of the Supreme Council of the Evangelical Community of Syria and Lebanon, Rev. Salim Sahyouni, Prelate of the Armenians in Lebanon, Bishop Shahe Panosian, Prelate of the Armenian Catholic Patriarchy, Bishop George Assadourian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria Rev. Haroutune Selimian, Dr. Hasmig Baran, Chair of HU Board of Trustees and several members of the HU Board, representatives of Armenian and Lebanese political parties, community leaders, representatives of educational institutions, parents, relatives and friends.

The auspicious ceremony began with the celebratory processional march by faculty and graduates on the notes of the traditional Pomp and Circumstance, followed by the Lebanese National Anthem and the Prayer of Invocation offered by Campus Minister Rev. Wilbert Van Saane.

Expressing his pride in the graduating class, University President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian acknowledged the unwavering efforts and dedication of the parents, asking the audience to give them a hearty applause.

In his address, Rev. Dr. Haidostian tackled the notion of "virtue" in shaping characters and identities. He focused his talk on "respect" as a much-needed virtue and a key for success that transcends all times and eras. "No matter in what era we live, remember that respect is what I need from myself for myself, what those around me need from me without discrimination," Rev. Dr. Haidostian noted. In a society where, unfortunately, respect is displayed mainly to the strong, he emphasized the importance to always "remember your Creator, remember His creatures, remember your families, and communities and country, remember that those stronger than you are in need of your respect equally with those who are weaker than yourselves."

In his inspiring keynote speech, Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Haigazian University Trustee and an Alumnus of 1973, Prof. Vahram Shemmassian addressed the graduating class by asking questions for them to

consider and introduced creative and constructive ideas for them to think about. These questions included "Can you be a game changer? Can you criticize yourself in the strictest manner? Can you surround yourself with capable and powerful people without the fear of losing your status?"

Prof. Shemmassian suggested that the graduates always keep a positive balance in life, namely in finding an adequate balance in the use of technology and globalization matters. "The sooner you regain your independence from excessive use of technology, the quicker the freedom to imagine and create again will revisit you," he noted.

He also invited the students to be change makers, unique, and mostly grateful. In this respect he said, "Life can never be miserable if you discipline yourselves to see the brighter side of things and the advantages that you have. Be the latest design that suits and beautifies all shapes of humanity--tasteful, colorful, radiant, attractive, original, imaginative, and ingenious."

Prof. Shemmassian concluded his address with very precious advice, saying, "if you have accumulated a number of credits just to obtain a degree, then you have not learned much. But if you consider those units as stored seeds with which to feed the hungry, assist the less fortunate, give hope to the dislocated and the homeless, elevate peoples' self-esteem, and or ennable mankind in general, then you and a true education have embraced each other inextricably."

The graduates then were called to receive their diplomas from the University President, assisted by Deans Fadi Asrawi and Arda Ekmekji.

With a sense of accomplishment and gratitude, valedictory Hagop Karamian and Suzanna Saaded-dine thanked the parents, University faculty and staff, giving them the credit for shaping and equipping the graduates with all the necessary education and skills to embark on their new phase of life.

After singing the Alma Mater, and upon the Benediction offered by the President of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, with loud cheers graduates threw their caps high into the air, joyfully marking the end of a four-year journey and confidently anticipating the commencement of a new beginning. □

Be the latest design that suits and beautifies all shapes of humanity - tasteful, colorful, radiant, attractive, original, imaginative, ingenious...

Vahram Shemmassian, Ph.D.

The Evangelical Church of Armenia in Sisian, Armenia Dedicates a Newly Renovated Building

Sisian is a town in Syunik Province at the south of Armenia. It is located on the Vorotan River, 6 km south of the Yerevan-Meghri Highway, 217 km southeast of Yerevan, and 115 km north of Kapan. The current population of Sisian is around 12,900.

In 2005, Hope for Armenia of France purchased a building located on a 2050 square meter plot in the city of Sisian to establish a Cultural and Social Center, which would consequently be named the Hovannes Ghazarossian and Yervant Kurkdjian Center after the two main donors. Hope for Armenia then donated the building to the Armenian Missionary Association of America and after some renovations, the center was used for Church services and Christian Education programs. In 2017, Hope for Armenia in partnership with the AMAA completed the first phase of the major renovation of the building.

Friday, April 27, 2018 was a very special day for the Sisian community of the Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA). The newly renovated building was dedicated and opened with a special service and ceremony. This structure will serve as a unique spiritual and educational-cultural complex for the Sisian residents. Under the roof of the Sisian Church and Community Center, the ECA will be able to carry out its Christian Education programs and worship services, and the AMAA will carry out its charitable projects and also organize the work of the Children's Day Care's Center.

Since 2001, the AMAA and the ECA have sponsored charitable and spiritual outreach programs in the Sisian region. □



Evangelical Church of Armenia in Yerevan Ordains Ministers

April 8, 2018 was a unique day for the Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA). Two ministers, Avedik Khachatryan, Director of the Christian Education Department of the ECA, and Vartan Apinyan, Pastor of the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Shirakamoud, were ordained into Christian Ministry at the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Yerevan. During the Ordination Service, Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Pastor to Pastors of ECA and Senior Pastor of the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Yerevan, delivered a message based on 2 Timothy 4:1-5. He spoke about the challenges and blessings of being an ordained minister, and exhorted them to stay alert, to be patient in troubles and be obedient to the mission they are called to serve.

Rev. Hovhannes Hovsepyan, Assistant Pastor of the Church in Yerevan, read the resolution of the Council to ordain these two individuals into Christian Ministry followed by the pastoral covenant confirming their loyalty and willingness to serve God and His church.

All the Ordained Ministers of the ECA who were present participated in the ordination ceremony by laying their hands and praying for Pastor Khachatryan and Pastor Apinyan. This was followed by



offering their "Right Hand" and welcoming them in the family of Ordained Ministers of ECA.

The Ordination Service ended with Benediction offered by Rev. Avetik Khachatryan and Rev. Vartan Apinyan. Our prayers are with the newly ordained ministers. May God's blessings be upon them as they continue to serve and spread the Good News. □

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Վեր. Յովհաննէս Սարմազեան

3 հուս ըսաւ.- «Եթէ դուք իմ խօսքիս մէջ կենաք, ճշմարտապէս իմ աշակերտներս կ'ըլլար: Եւ ճշմարտութիւնը պիտի գիտնաք ու այն ճշմարտութիւնը ձեզ պիտի ազատէ»: Յովհաննու 8. 31-32

2018-ը՝ այս ընթացիկ տարին՝ ըլլարով մեր Հայաստան Հայրենիքի առաջին Անկախութեան Հարիւրամնակը, Մեծի Տանն Կիլիկիոյ Վեհափառ Հայրապէտ՝ Արամ Ա. Կալորդիկոս, յատուկ կոնդակով մը զայն հոչակեց «Անկախութեան Տարի»: Արդարեւ, ազգային, պատմական շատ կարեւոր եւ անկիւնադարձային թուական մը՝ 28 Մայիս, 1918:

Դարեւ շարունակ, օտար պետութիւններու բռնատիրութեան լուծերուն տակ չարչարուելէ եւ անհաշուելի զոհողութիւններէ եւ զոհաբերութիւններէ ետք, վերջապէս 28 Մայիս, 1918-ին, Հայաստան մեր Հայրենիքը իր ազատութեան կը տիրանար, հիմնելով իր առաջին ազատ եւ անկախ հանրապետութիւնը:

Երոպացի պատմաբան մը ըսած է.- «Հայերը Առաջին Համաշխարհային Պատերազմին մէկ միլիոն մարդ զոհաբերեցին՝ ուրիշ մէկ միլիոնի մը ազատ ապրիլը կարելի դարձնու համար»:

Հայ ժողովուրդին համար այդքան սուր արժո՞ն՝ մեր Հայաստան Հայրենիքի այդ առաջին անկախութեանը դժբախտաբար երկար կեանք չունեցաւ: Հազիւ երկու եւ կես տարի անցած, 29 Նոյեմբեր, 1920-ին, քաղաքական աննապատ պայմաններու բերումով, այս անզամ Հայաստան մեր Հայրենիքը ինկա Սովետական Միութեան այդ ցանցին մէջ: Շուրջ 70 երկար եւ տաժանելի տարիներէ ետք, յատկապէս մեր Հայ ժողովուրդին համար, Սովետական Միութեան այդ հակաքրիստոնէական վարչակարգը շատ ծանր եղաւ, անոր համար որ, մննք որպէս Հայ ժողովուրդ, շատ կանուխէն կապուած ըլլարով Քրիստոնէական հաւատքին, Եկեղեցի, Աստուածաշուն եւ աղօթք, այդ բոլորը մէկոյի դնելն ու մոռնալը, մեր ժողովուրդին համար անկարելի ըլլարով չափ դժուարին պարագայ մը կը նկատուէր: Անոր համար ալ, շատ կրօնական եւ մտաւորական առաջնորդներ Միավերիա արտորուեցան: Կ'ըսուի թէ, զիրար լրտեսելու պարտադրանք մը ստեղծուած էր այն օրերուն: Հայրենի տաղանդաւոր վիպագիր՝ Ստեփան Ալաջաշեան կ'ըսէ.- «Մայրս մտքում էր աղօթում, իսկ հայր գաղտնի էր խաչ հանում...»:

Կը յիշեմ, 1997-ի Նոյեմբերին, երբ մասնաւոր Աւետարանչական գործով Հայաստան դրկուած էի, ուզեցի այցելել ինծի հայրենակից եւ ծանօթ, Ամենայն Հայոց Կաթողիկոս՝ Գարեգին Ա. Սարգսիւան Ամենայն Հայոց Վեհափառը: Շուրջ մէկ ու կես ժամ խօսակցութեան մը ընթացքին, ի մէջ այլոց, Վեհափառը Իր խօսքը եզրակացնելով ըսաւ.- «Պատուելի եղայրը, պէտք չէ Հայրենիք մեր ժողովուրդը մեղադրել, այլ պէտք է մեղքնալ անոնց: Եօթանասուն երկար տարիներու այս համայնավար՝ անաստուածութեան վարչակարգը, շատ մեծ աւերներ գործած է անոնց Քրիստոնէական հաւատքի կեանքը մոոցնել տալու եւ ջնջելու համար: Հայրենիքի մէջ այսօր, Հայ Եկեղեցին եւ իր եկեղեցականը շատ մեծ գործեր ունին ընկիք, մեր Հայրենիք ժողովուրդը «Վերաբրիստոնէացնելու» այդ խիստ կենսական եւ անմիջական աշխատանքին համար...»:

Այս առթիւ, թող ներուի ինծի, մի գուցէ մեր նիւթէն քիչ մը շեղեցանք: «Անկախութիւն» եւ «Ազատութիւն», զիրար ամբողջացնող վերացական այս երկու անունները, պէտք ունին վերասահմանուելու: «Անկախութիւն» կը նշանակէ երբ երկիր մը կամ ազգ մը ուրիշ ազգի մը տիրապետութեան տակ չէ: Ինքինք կը կառավարէ իր ուղած ձեւով: Իսկ «Ազատութիւն» եզրը աւելի սեղմ իմաստով կը գործածուի: Անհատ մարդոց ազատութիւն, ընտանեկան, հաւաքական եւ կամ կազմակերպական կեանքի մէջ «Ազատութիւն»:

Սակայն ինչպէս ըսուեցաւ, այս երկու եզրերը զիրար կ'ամբողջացնեն: Ազատ մարդիկ են որ միայն կրնան իրենց երկրին անկախութեան մասին մտածել եւ իրագործել զայն:

Այս բոլորէն ետք սակայն, պէտք է յստակ ըլլայ մէզի թէ, ի՞նչ բանէ ազատութիւն, եւ ի՞նչ բանի համար ազատութիւն:

Այս հարցումներուն պատասխանները որոնելով, անխուսափելիորէն մեզի կը տանին Սուրբ Գրային եւ Աստուածաբանական ճշմարտութեանց մէջ մտնելու: Աստուած Ինք ստեղծեց առաջին ընտանիքը Եղեմի պարտէզին մէջ եւ ազատութիւն տուաւ անոնց իր պատուիրանքներու սահմաննեն ներս՝ եւ Իր կամքին համեմատ կեանք մը ապրելու համար: Այս բոլորը կը նշանակեն, ազատութիւնը Հօր Աստուծոյ կողմէ, Իր պատկերով ստեղծուած



մարդարածին տրուած մեծ պարզեւ մըն է, շնորհք մը, ընտրելու և ապրելու համար Աստուծոյ կամքին եւ պատուիրանքներուն համեմատ կեանք մը: Այլ խօսքով, Ազատութիւն ընտրելու համար ճշմարիտ եւ Աստուծոյ կամքին համեմատ, իրաւ մարդկային կեանք մը ապրելու այդ դրույթիւնը:

Դարձեալ այս ճշմարտութենէն մեկնելով էր որ Յիսուս ակնարկելով ազատութեան, ըսաւ.- «Եթէ դուք իմ Խօսքին մէջ կենաք, ճշմարտապէս իմ աշակերտներս կ'ըլլաք: Եւ ճշմարտութիւնը պիտի գիտնաք ու այն ճշմարտութիւնը ձեզ պիտի ազատէ»: (Յովհաննու 8. 31-32):

Հաւանաբար տեղին է հարց տալ.- Ո՞վ է եւ կամ ի՞նչ է ճշմարտութիւնը: Դարձեալ Յիսուս՝ Ինք ըսաւ.- «Ես եմ ճշմարտութիւնը եւ կեանքը»: (Յովհաննու 14. 6): Այս կը նշանակէ, իրաւ, օգտակար եւ օրինաբեր ազատութիւն կրնանք ունենալ, երբ Քրիստոսի հաւատալով եւ Զայն մեր կեանքի Տէրն ու Փրկիչը ընդունելով, Իր կամքին եւ ուսուցմունքներուն համեմատ կեանք մը կ'ապրինք:

Մեր անհատ մարդու ազատութիւնը խափանող գիտաւոր պատճառը՝ Սատանան ինքն է: Սատանան է որ կը գործէ մեր ցանկութիւններուն միշոցաւ եւ մեզի մեղքի կապանքներուն տակ ձգելով, կը խափանէ մեր Աստուծանուր ազատութիւնը: Պողոս Առաքեալ մեղքը կը նկատէ, մեզի դիւրաւ պաշարող եւ գերիխացնող իրողութիւն մը: Անոր համար կոչ կ'ընէ: Գաղատացի եկեղեցւոյ հաւատացեալներուն ըսելով.- «Վասն զի դուք ազատութեան կանչուած էք, եղրայններ, միայն թէ ձեր ազատութիւնը մարմնի ցանկութիւններուն պատճառ չըլլայ, հապա սիրով իրարու ծառայութիւն ըրէք»: (Գաղատացիս 5. 13):

Երբ մարդիկ փոխանակ Աստուծոյ հաւատալով եւ Անոր սիրով լեցուած եւ արաջնորդուած կեանք մը ապրելու, կ'ապրին իրենց մարմնական ցանկութիւններով եւ բնազններով միուած կեանք մը, անկախութիւնն ու ազատութիւնը օրինութիւն մը ըլլալու փոխարէն շատ մը դէկավար մարդոց ըռվ կը դատնան շահագրծումի առիթներ, եւ հայրենիքը կը դատնայ անբաղձալի վայր մը: Առանց Քրիստոսի հաւատալու կեանք մը ապրիլ՝ ի վերջոյ մարդոց կը հասցնէ զիրենք դիւրաւ պաշարող այդ մեղքի գերութեան: (Երբայեցիս 12. 1):

Անվիճելի եւ իրաւ եւ մնայուն ճշմարտութիւնը Աստուծ Ինքն է՝ մեզի յայտնուած Քրիստոսով: Երբ ճանչնանք Քրիստոսը եւ իրեն հաւատալով՝ Իր կամքին եւ պատուիրանքներուն համեմատ կեանք մը ապրինք, միայն այն ատեն է որ կրնանք իրաւ եւ մնայուն ազատութիւն ունենալ եւ անոր բարիքներն ու օրինութիւնները վայելի:

Այս առթիւ, աւելի գործնական ըլլալու համար, այստեղ դարձեալ տեղին է հարց տալ, թէ մեր Հայաստան Հայրենիքի այս վերջին «Անկախութենէն» աւելի քան քառորդ դար անցնելէ ետք, ո՞ւր կը գտնուինք այսօր: Անկախութիւնն ու ազատութիւնը որքան բարիքներ եւ օրինութիւններ կրցան բերէ մեր Հայրենի ժողովուրդին:

Սկզբնական շրջանին, անկախակած որ եղան կարգ մը բարեփոխութիւններ, բայց, երթալով փոխանակ դէկի լաւը ընթանալու, ընկերային եւ տնտեսական շատ մը վիճակներ սկսան աւելի վատքարանալ եւ որուն որպէս հետեւանք, շատ վիճակար եւ աղէտալի երեւոյթ մը ստեղծուեցաւ մեր Ազատ եւ Անկախ Հայրենիքին մէջ.- Արտազալոյ մը դէկի օտար երկիրներ, աւելի լաւ կեանք մը փնտուելու մտադրութեամբ:

Այս հարցով, ես կը խորիիմ, պէտք է շատ լուրջ սերուդութիւններ կատարուիմ մեր Հայրենիքն ներս, յայտնաբերելու համար բուն պատճառները ընկերային եւ տնտեսական այս

բոլոր դժուարութիւններուն, որոնք պատճառ կը դաշնան այս աղէտալի արտազալոյին: Իմ կարծիքով (ինչպէս շատեր կ'արտայայտուիին), ընկերային եւ տնտեսական այդ աննպաստ պայմաններուն ստեղծման գլխաւոր պատճառներն մէկն ալ՝ ազատութիւնը սխալ գործածելու պետական մարդոց այդ վերաբերմունքին հետեւանքը եղող իրողութիւն մըն է:

Իմ կարծիքով, պետական այդ մարդիկ այնքան ալ մէղադրելի չեն, ինչպէս մեր Վեհափառը կ'ըսէր, անոր համար որ եօթանասուն երկար տարիներու համայնավար անաստուածութեան այդ երկարագուուղ շրջանին (շուրջ երեք սկրունդներ անցնելէ ետք), ժամանակը մոռցնեղուութեան մեր ազգի առաջնորդ գաւակներուն, թէ Ազատութիւնը Աստուծանուր շնորհք մըն է Հօր Աստուծոյ կողմէ տրուած՝ Իր պատկերով ստեղծուած մարդ արարածին համար, եւ պէտք է զայն Աստուծոյ կամքին եւ պատուիրաններուն համաձայն գործածել, ինչպէս Առաքեալը կը շեշտէ ըսելով.- «Վասն զի դուք ազատութեան կանչուած էք, եղրայններ, միայն թէ ձեր ազատութիւնը մարմնի ցանկութիւններուն պատճառ չըլլայ, հապա սիրով իրարու ծառայութիւն ըրէք...»: (Գաղատացիս 5. 1):

Ես կը հաւատամ, մեր հայրենիքն ներս տիրող ընկերային, տնտեսական եւ քաղաքական ամէն տեսակի աննպաստ պայմաններ, կարելի է հետզիեստ բարեկարգութեան մը ընթացքին մէջ դնել, եւ երջանկայիշատակ Գարեգին Ա. Վեհափառին կոչը շատ լրջորէն նկատի արնուելով, Հայ Եկեղեցին իր եկեղեցականներով, ծրագրուած աշխատանքի լծուին, մեր Հայրենի ժողովուրդը «Վերաքրիստոնէացնելու» համար: Այլ խօսքով՝ յատկապէս մեր Հայրենի ժողովուրդի նոր սերունդին, Քրիստոնէական դաստիարակութիւն շամբելու համար ծրագրուած աշխատանքներ կատարելով է, որ միայն կարելի կը դատնայ կացութիւնը աւելի արագօրէն բարեկարգութեան ընթացքի մը մէջ դնել: Այս առթիւ, առաջին ճշմարտութիւնը որ պէտք է շեշտուի այստեղ՝ այն է թէ, Ազատութիւնը շատ կենսական եւ հիմնական կարիք մըն է Աստուծոյ պատկերով ստեղծուած մարդ արարածին համար, ճշմարիտ մարդկային կեանք կարենալ ապրելու համար: Արարի Աստուծած այդպէս ստեղծած է մեզ Իր պատկերով որպէս մարդ:

Այս ճշմարտութիւնը գիտնալի ետք, աւելի կարեւոր ճշմարտութիւն մըն է գիտնալ նաև, թէ ի՞նչ քան պէտք է ազատ ըլլայ, եւ ի՞նչ քան համար պէտք է ազատ ըլլայ, եւ ապա ինչպէս կարելի է իսկապէս ազատ ըլլայ:

Պէտք է գոյց եւ արթուն ըլլայ որպէս հաւատացեալներ: Յաճախ մեր շուրջը զոնուող մարդոցմէ եւ կամ ազգերէ առաջ եւ աւելի, մեր մարմնական եւ հոգեկան ցանկութիւններն են որ մեզ կը գերիխացնեն: Որքան շատ է թիւր այսօր մարդոց եւ կիններու, որոնք ալրոյի, թմբեցուցիչներու եւ սեռային մոլորդիններու եւ մոլորդութիւններու գերիները դարձած, պարզապէս, սկզբնական շրջանին իրենք գիրենք ազատ զգացած են այդ սխալ քանները ընելու: Անոր համար Առաքեալը կը գգուշացնէ ըսելով.- «Վասնզի դուք ազատութեան կանչուած էք եղրայններ, միայն թէ ձեր ազատութիւնը մարմնի ցանկութիւններուն պատճառ չըլլայ» (Գաղատացիս 5. 13):

Յաճախ մարդիկ, կամայ կամ ակամայ, գիտութեալներ եւ երեւմն ալ անզիսութեամբ, մեղսալից կեանք մը կ'ապրին, իրենք իրենց կեանքը գերութեան մը մէջ ձգելով: Առաքեալը մեղքին ակնարկելով կ'ըսէ.- «Մեզ դիւրաւ պաշարող մեղքը» (Երբայեցիս 12. 1), «մեղքին վարձը ուրիշ քան չէ, եթէ ոչ մահ» (Հռովմայեցիս 6. 23), եւ «Ամէն ով որ մեղք կը գործէ, անիկա մեղքի ծառայ եթէ...: Ուստի եթէ Որդին (Քրիստոս) ձեզ ազատ ընէ, ճշմարիտ կատարուիրային պատճառ չըլլայ» (Յովհաննու 8. 34, 36):

Ուրեմն, եզրակացնելով պէտք է ըսել թէ, ճշմարիտ ազատութիւնը Աստուածային շնորհ մըն է՝ մարդ արարածին համար՝ իր ստեղծչին տրուած: Ոչ որ իրաւոնք ունի ուրիշի մը (կամ ինք իր) ազատութիւնը խափանելու: Ճշմարիտ ազատութիւնը Աստուածային պարզեւ մը ըլլալուն համար, ունի իր պայմաններն ու սահմանները.- Ազատութիւն Աստուծոյ կամքին եւ պատուիրաններուն սահմաններս: Բացարձակ ազատութիւն փնտուել կը նշանակէ անիշխանութեան եւ անկարգութեան մէջ իյնավ: Ասոր համար Պօղոս Առաքեալ կը պատուիրէ բակրվ.- «Ամուր կեցէք այն ազատութեան մէջ, որով Քրիստոս մնագ ազատեց» (Գաղատացիս 5. 1): Այս իմաստով, ճշմարիտ ազատութիւնը այն Աստուածային իրավիճակն է, ուր մարդկային կեանքը կրնայ ինքինք լաւագոյն կերպով արժեցնել: Ճշմարիտ ազատութիւն, այլ խօսքով կը նշանակէ, Քրիստոսով մեղքերու թողութիւն գտած այդ իրավիճակին մէջ ըլլալ եւ ապրիլ:

Ուրեմն, անկախութեան յիշատակութեան այս տօնին աշխարհով, մեր աղօթքն ու մաղթանքն է, որ մեր Հայրենիքի պետական առաջնորդներ, ճանչնան ճշմարտութիւնը՝ որ Քրիստոս Ինքն է, եւ Անոր սիրով լեցուած եւ նուիրումով առաջնորդուած կարենան արժեւորել եւ օրհնութիւն դարձնել մեր հայրենի ժողովուրդին համար, այն քաղաքական անկախութիւնը, որուն տիրանալու բարերախտութիւնը ունեցած է այսօր մեր Հայաստան Հայրենիքը:

Այլ խօսքով, թող Աստուած մեր ներկայ Հայրենիքի դեկապարներուն, հաւատք, սէր, նուիրում եւ իմաստութիւն պարզեւէ, որպէս զի անոնք կարենան մեր Հայրենիքը դարձնել իրապուրիշ վայրի մը, եւ փոխանակ արտագաղթ՝ Սփիւրի Հայր ըսէ.- «Ելլեմ երթամ մեր հայրերուն տունը...»:

Թող Աստուած օրինելով օրինէ մեր Հայաստան Հայրենիքը... Իր Փառքին համար. Ամէն: □

Քրիստոս կ'ազատ Կամ Ազատ Կը Զգէ

Գաղատացիս 5. 1-18

Վեր. Յովհաննէս Սվաճեան*

2 8 Մայիս, 1918-ին՝ դժնակ պայմաններու մէջ, Հայաստանի Ա. Հանրապետութեան անկախութիւնը հրչակուեցաւ, որպէսզի մեր հոդին վրայ ազատ ապրինք. արդի պատմութեան մէջ՝ մենք զմեզ կառավարելու առաջին փորձը: Այս տարի՝ Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան անկախութեան 100-ամեակը յատուկ շուրջով կը տօնուի: Ազատութիւնը ամենէն շատ սիսալ հասկցուած ու շարահաշուած նիւթերէն մէկն է: 18 Մետեմբեր, 2014-ին՝ ազգային հանրաքուէ մը կազմակերպուեցաւ Սկզբանի մէջ քուէարկութեան աւարտին սկզբանացիններուն կէտէն աւելի մերժեցին անկախութիւնը ձեռք ձգել: Մէկ քանի երեւոյթներ ազատութեան մասին՝ Քրիստոնէական հաւատքի պիհմանակն դիտած.-

1) Սուրբ Գիրքը քաղաքական/զինուորական/ընկերային ազատագրութիւն չի ջատագովել: Ան որ կ'ազատագրէ, նաւու իր ընկեր մարդը գերի կը դարձնէ: Նախապատուութիւնը մարդուն հոգեւոր/նորի/սրտի պատութիւնն է՝ զոր Տեր Յիսուս կը շնորհէ (Բ.Կոր.3.17): Քրիստոս կ'ազատէ (Յովհ.8.36)՝ մեղքէն (Հո.6.18), «մահուան օրէնքէն» (Հո.8.2), «խաւարի իշխանութենէն» (Կոդ.1.13), «չարէն» (Մատթ.6.13) եւ «զայու բարկութենէն» (Ա.Թես.1.10:Հո.7.24): Ազատութիւնը մարդուն «ես»-ին մեռնին է, սահմանափակումն է՝ կաշկանդումը, ազատ՝ մեղքի հետեւանքէն:

Յովհաննու Աւետարանի 8րդ գիշուն մէջ, փարիսեցինները կը մերժեն Քրիստոսի ազատութիւնը եւ Անոր ոճը, քանի որ անոնք իրենց միջոցներով՝ Աքրահամով, օրէնքով, ուժով, իմաստութիւնով, (այսօր ալ մարդիկ) ուսումով եւ դրամով կը շանան իրենք իրենց ազատութիւն մը շնորհել (Յովհ.8.33): Այս բոլոր մարզերը կրնան մարդուն իրիգոնները ընդլայնել, սակայն, սահմանափակ են, խարուսիկ եւ յարաբերական (Բ.Պետ.2.19):

Յիսուս չի կաշկանդէր՝ իր ազատութիւնը երբեք չի պարտադրել: Մարդուն ազատութեան լաւագոյն փաստը

իր ունեցած ազատ ընտրութիւնն է՝ Քրիստոսի ազատութիւնը ընդունելու կամ մերժելու: Երբ մարդ չընդունի Յիսուսի շնորհած ազատութիւնը, Յիսուս ազատ կը ձգէ մարդը, որպէսզի ան իր ընտրած ազատութեան զննը վճարէ: Մարդ ինք կը քաղէ իր որոշումին պտույլը եւ ինք կը կրէ իր ընտրութեան հետեւանքը: Չարմանափիօրէն առաքեալը ինքինք Քրիստոսի ծառայ կը սեպէ, որոն մէջ կը գտնէ իր ազատութիւնը (Գաղ.5.13: Փիլ.1.1: Հո.6.22):

2) Երբ Քրիստոս կ'ազատէ, չենք կրնար զայն չարաչար զործածէկ. «Ազատութեան կանչուած էք, երբայրներ, միայն թէ ձեր ազատութիւնը մարմնի ցանկութիւններու պատճառ չըլլայ, հապա սիրով իրարու ծառայութիւն ըրէք» (Գաղ.5.13). նաև՝ «Ազատներու պէս ըլլալով եւ ոչ թէ ձեր ազատութիւնը չարութեան ծածկոցի մը պէս զործածելով հապա Աստուծոյ ծառաներու պէս» (Ա.Պետ.2.16): Իբրևու հաւատացեալ՝ ազատ չենք մեղքը դիտումնաւոր/հանգիստ զործելու, մեր ցանկութիւնները սնուցանելու եւ սանձարձակ ապրելու. ազատ չենք երբեմն սուտ, երբեմն ճշմարտութիւնը խօսելու. ազատ չենք Յիսուսի պատուիրանները աղաւաղելու եւ նոր սկզբունքներ շինելու՝ օրուան համաձայն: Կ'ապրինք աշխարհի մէջ՝ Քրիստոսի պատութիւնով. կը պատկանինք Քրիստոսի եւ Անոր մարմնին (Ժիտ.2.14): Կ'ապրինք մեր հաւատքի օրէնքի համաձայն: Մէր ազատութեան սահմանները եւ կրթութիւնը կը գտնենք Աստուածաշունչին մէջ, որուն պատզամով եւ արժեքներով կ'ապրինք: Մէր հաւատքի ազատութիւնը կ'ապրինք առանց ուրիշը գայթակեցնելու կամ Քրիստոսի/Եկեղեցին անունին արատ մը բերելու, քանի որ Քրիստոսի սէրը ունինք (Հո.13.9,10):

3) Բացարձակ ազատութիւն չկայ՝ ան ունի իր պայմանները. օդին մէջ չէ, իր միջավայրը եւ իր ազդակները



Ամենային պատճեան Սվաճեան*

ունի: Ազատութիւնը կը նմանի ինքնաշարժ քշելու՝ որ իր օրէնքները ունի. բխրուն ծաղկամանի մը՝ որուն հետ յատուկ ուշադրութեամբ վարուելու ես: Այս ազատ երկիր է բայց մարդ չի կրնար իր տունէն աղքը դուրս նետել: Ամուսնացած մարդը չի կրնար իր ջահեկութիւնը ապրի: Դպրոցին մէջ աշակերտը/ուսուցիչը որոշ ազատութիւն ունին՝ որոշ սահմաններու մէջ կադապարուած:

Ամէն երկիր/խումբ ինքն իր ազատութեան սահմանումը ունի: Միջին Արեւելքի մէջ համայնքային ազատութիւն մը կայ: Արեւմուստքի մէջ՝ անձնական բարոյական «պայն» ազատութիւն. Մարդուն ազատութիւնը կ'իրականանայ միայն այն աստեն՝ երբ պետութիւնը օրինականացնէ կամ նուիրականացնէ զայն: Պետութեան օրէնքով՝ քաղաքակիրթ կամ բիբրտ, միշտ այլ «աստրկութիւն-slavery» եղած է: Այսօր նորանոր բարքեր եւ ազատութեան որոշ տեսակի արժեքներ կը ներխուժեն աշխարհի ժողովուրդները՝ քարուքանդ կ'ըլլան երկիր/շրջաններ, կը զայթեն միլիոնաւոր մարդիկ եւ կը քայրայուին ընտանիքներ: Աւելի. այսօրուան ազատութիւնը բարոյագիտական նոր դոներ կը բանայ եւ սովորութիւններ կը նուիրագործուին՝ որոնց դէմ արտայայտուիլը մարդկային իրաւունքի դէմ խօսի կը նկատուի: Զարտուիի եւ յոյժ սովորութիւններ «քնական» կը հրամցուին՝ որոնք անընդունելի են Քրիստոնէական հաւատքին համար: Խոճի ազատութիւնը շուրջ տակ կ'առնուի: Անհատը՝ պահելով հանդերձ իր անհատականութիւնը, պարտաւոր կը դառնայ իր միջավայրին հաւատացածները ընդունելու: Լսատեսողական կերպերը, ֆիլմերը, գիրքերը եւ այլ ձեւեր կ'օգտագործուին սոյն

բարքերը տարածելու: Ինչպէ՞ս կարելի է հաշտուիլ իրամցուած ամուսնութեան օրը relationship-ի, միասեռականութեան, սերի ընտրութեան եւ այլանդակ յարաբերութիւններու հետ: Այս բաներուն հանդուրժելը քաղաքակրթութիւնն կը նկատուի՝ ազատութիւնն է: Կը կասկածիմ: Մարդուն տուած կամ շատագոված ազատութիւնը խարիսնք է, քանի որ այդ իր անձնասիրութենէն ու շահէն կը բխի:

Կարեւոր հարցում մը. ի՞նչ է մարդուն ազատութեան տարրողութիւնը բնութեան աղէտներու, տիեզերքի օրէնքներու, ստեղծուած կառոյցներու, պատմութեան հոլովյոյի, ժառանգական գիծերու, «քախտի» եւ պետութեան հսկողութեանց լոյսին տակ: Մարդ կը ճանչնայ՝ իր սահմանները: Մարդ ուշադրութիւն ընելու է որ չխարուի եւ իր ազատութիւնով չխախտէ բնութեան հաւասարակշռութիւնը, չինացնէ իր մարմինը, չստրկացնէ իր ընկեր մարդը, եւ զԱստուած չխորձէ վտարել իր իսկ ստեղծած աշխարհէն:

Աշխարհ չընդունիր Յիսուսի տուած ազատութիւնը. Եկեղեցին կ'ընդունի եւ կը ճաշակէ Քրիստոսի ազատութիւնը, որուն շատագովը ըլլալու է: Այս է հիմնական տարրերութիւնը աշխարհի մօտեցումին եւ եկեղեցիին էութեան: Քրիստոսի շնորհած ազատութիւնը ճաշակէ, զայն շատագովէ, եւ այդ համոզումով ապրէ՝ եկեղեցիին եւ ընկերութեան մէջ. նաև՝ Հայրենիքին մէջ: Միայն (Մարդեղացած) Աստուած կու տայ մարդուն իսկական ազատութիւնը, քան մարդը՝ մարդուն: □

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* Վեր. Յովհաննես Սվաճեան հովիւն է Մոնթրիալի (Գանատա Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցի):

On the occasion of the Centennial of Armenia's Independence, students from Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School of Yerevan visit the Sardarabad Memorial.

Հայաստանի Ավագիսութեան 100-ամեակի առիթով Երեւանի խորեն եւ Շուշանիկ Աւետիսեան Դպրոցի խումբ մը աշակերտներու այցը Սարդարապատի Յուշահամալիր:



13 Մարտ 2018-ին Արցախի Առաջնորդ Արք. Պարգևի Մարտիրոսեան պաշտօնական այցելութիւն տուա Կընտէլի Հիւսիսային Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու Միութեան Կերպունատելին: Ներկա էին Վեր. Պերճ Ճամպագեան՝ Միութեան Հովհիր, Լեւոն Ֆիլեան՝ Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան Արեւմտեան Ավի Գործադիր Տնօրէնը, ինչպէս նաև Լու Անճելոսի շրջանն հովիւները: Արք. Մարտիրոսեան խօսեաւ Լու Անճելոս այցելութեան իր ծրագիրներուն մասին, որոնց շարին էր Արցախի Ազատագրման Շարժումի 30-ամեայ տօնախմբութիւնները:

On March 13, 2018, His Eminence Archbishop Barkev Mardirossian, Primate of Artsakh, paid a cordial visit to the Headquarters of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America in Glendale, CA. He was received by Rev. Berdj Djambazian, the Minister to the Union, Levon Filian, West Coast AMAA Executive Director, and several AEUNA pastors from the Greater Los Angeles area. The Archbishop shared his plans about visiting the Greater Los Angeles area to participate in the 30th anniversary commemoration of the Artsakh movement.





Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւն Հաւատքի, Սիրոյ եւ Ծառայութեան Հարիւրամեայ Աւանդ

Վեր. Դոկտ. Ժան Խանճեան*

Բ. Մաս

100 Տարուայ Անձնուրաց Առաջնորդութիւն

Fարեախրական թէ կրթական հաստատութիւններ կարիքը ունին առաջնորդի՝ դեկապարեկու հիմնարկը: Վեր. Գալայնեան՝ առաջին ձախող փորձեն ետք՝ կրկին պաշտօնակոչուեցաւ, ու երեք տարիներ ծառայեց. առաջին երկու տարին որպէս Ընդհանուր Հովիլ եւ երրորդ տարին որպէս ԱՀԱԸ-ի Ընդհանուր Քարտուղար: Վեր. Պետիկեան Գործադիր Քարտուղարի պաշտօնը վարեց շուրջ 15 տարիներ առանց հատուցումի: Ան միշտ պատրաստակամ էր առաջնորդութեան կարիքը լեցնելու: Վեր. Մանաւ. Փափազեան Քարտուղարի պաշտօնը ստանձնեց միայն մէկ տարի (1928-1929) նիւթականի անբաւարարութեան պատճառով: Անոր յաջորդեց Վեր. Տօրք. Երուանդ Հատիստեան՝ կէս ժամանակով (12 Մեպտ. 1930-1935): Անոր յատկանշական իրազործումներէն եղաւ գոյառումը Աւետարանչականի եւ Արտաքին Առաքելութեան՝ Ամերիկեան Յանձնաժողովի Միացեալ Յանձնախումբը, որ Միջին Արեւելքի դաշտին մէջ գործակցելու պատեհութիւնը ստեղծեց: Վեր. Նշան Պէկեան՝ Աւետարանչականի դեկապարութիւնը ստանձնեց մէկ երրորդ ժամանակի հասկացողութեամբ մինչեւ իր մահը՝ 1943: Վեր. Պետիկեան կրկին ստանձնեց դեկը 1946-ին: Ան մէծ ներդրում ունեցաւ Հայ Աւետարանչական Եկեղեցի 100-ամեակի հիմնադրամի արշաւին յաջողութեան մէջ: Վեր. Պետիկեան՝ գրչի մարդ, մտաւորական եւ հմայիշ անձնաւորութիւն մը՝ մեծապէս սատարեց Աւետարանչականի յառաջխաղաքին:

Վեր. Պետիկեանի յանձնարարութեան վրայ՝ պաշտօնի հրաւիրուեցաւ Վեր. Քիւզանդ Գալֆայեան, 20 Մեպտ. 1946-ին՝ իբր Գործադիր Քարտուղար: Ան լաւ պատ-

րաստուած էր իր Աստուածաբանական եւ համալսարանական ուսումնով եւ քաջատեղեակ էր Միջին Արեւելքի Հայ Աւետարանչական Եկեղեցիներու եւ հաստատութիւններու իրավիճակին եւ կարիքներուն:

Իր շրջանին Աւետարանչականի գործի դաշտը ծաւալած էր: Այդ գործը կ'ընդգրկէր ոչ միայն Միջին Արեւելքը, այլ նաև Պարսկաստան, Ֆրանսա, Արժանթին, Պրազի եւ Ուրուկուէ: Վեր. Գալֆայեան Աւետարանչականի յայնատարած դաշտին օրէ օր անող կարիքներուն քաջատեղեակ ըլլալով, հանդիսացաւ սիրոյ ու յոյսի կամուրջը բոլոր գաղութեներուն համար: Պատանեկութեանս շրջանին իրեն հետ թղթակցած էի, բայց օր մը, երբ անձամբ տեսնելու անիթը ունեցայ, մեծապէս տպաւորուեցայ անոր ազնիւ ու խոնար ժպիտէն: Անոր գրաւիչ անձնաւորութիւնը՝ շատերուն Վստահութիւնը շահեցաւ, որու պատճառով Ընկերակցութեան եկամուտը նուիրատուութեամբ կրկնապատկուեցաւ իր պաշտօնակոչութեան երկրորդ տարուան վերջաւորութեան: Ան մէծ յաջորդութեամբ ձեռնարկեց Հայ Աւետարանչական Եկեղեցի 100-ամեակի հիմնադրութեան արշաւին հանգանակելով \$154,000, որուն \$19,000-ը հասարուած էր Միջին Արեւելքի եկեղեցիներէն: Վեր. Գալֆայեան՝ քաջատեղեակ Սուրբոյ եւ Լիքանանի կրթական կարիքներուն՝ շատագովը եղաւ Պէյրութի մէջ Հայ Աւետարանչական Ուսուցչանոցի մը հիմնադրութեան, որ կարեւոր դէր ունեցաւ ուսուցիչներ եւ ընկերային գործիներ պատրաստելու ծրագրին: 1955-ին երբ Հայկակեան Գոյենք հիմնուեցաւ, ան ստանձնեց այդ Ուսուցչանոցին ծրագիրը իր կրթական ու ընկերապանութեան ամպինին մէջ: Կրթական հաստատութիւնները գօրացնելու համար՝ Վեր. Գալֆայեան սկսաւ դպրոցական մանուկներուն օգնելու բարերարներու դրութիւնը, որ ցարդ կը շարունակուի: Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան քառասունամեակին առիթով, ան նախաձեռնեց Մէկ Միլիոն Տոլարի Արշաւը, ու հազիւ սկսած այս ծրագրի աշխատանքերը՝ մահը զինք խլեց 26 Մայիս 1959-ին, ցնցելով զինք սիրող բարեկամներն ու սգացող Հայ Աւետարանչական Համայնքը, որ կորսնցուց իր նուիրեալ, ազնիւ ու տաղանդաւոր առաջնորդը: Ան իր մահուամբ՝ ինչպէս իր կեանքով, ներշնչեց համայնքը աւելի առատաձեռն ըլլալ: Վեր. Գալֆայեանի 13 տարիներու



Պաշտօնակոչութիւն
Վեր. Դոկտ. Կիրակոս
Զօվուրեանի, որպէս
Գործադիր Քարտուղար
Աւետարանչականի - 1969:

ծառայութիւնը եղաւ շօշափելի ներկայութիւնը եւ բարի խորհրդանիշը ԱՀԱՀ-ի: Օրինեալ ըլլայ եւ է՛ իր յիշատակը:

Վեր. Եղուարդ Թովմասեան անոր յաջորդեց 1959-ին, եւ հաւատարմաբար ծառայեց Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան շուրջ ինը տարիներ: Սրտի տագնապի պատճառով ան հանգստեան կոչուեցաւ: Անոր հեղահամբոյր ու մեղմ հովուական մօտեցումը գնահատուած էր բոլորին կողմէ, սատարելով Աւետարանչականի աճման: Անոր կարեւոր նուաճումներէն մէկը Պոլսոյ Պատանեկան Տան հոգատարութիւնն էր, որ Թրքացումէ փրկելու համար մանուկներ եւ պատանիներ Պոլսոյ կը բերուէին Թուրքիայ ներքին գաւառներէն՝ որոնց թիւր տարիներու ընթացքին հասաւ շուրջ 1500-ի: Հրանդ Տինգ եւ տիկինը՝ Ռաքէ այս խումբէն էին: Վեր. Թովմասեանի հրաժարումէն ետք, Ստեփան Մարտիկեան ստանձնեց Վարիչի պաշտօնը 11 Սեպտ. – 11 Դեկտ. 1968:

1 Յունուար 1969-ին Գործադիր Քարտուղարի պաշտօնը փոխանցուեցաւ Վեր. Դոկտ. Կիրակոս Յարութիւն Զօփուրեանի: Ան այս հանգամանքով ծառայեց մինչեւ 1975՝ երբ իր պաշտօնի տիտղոսը փոխուեցաւ «Գործադիր Տնօրինի»՝ վարչական, նիւթական եւ ծրագիրներու ծաւալման ու պատասխանատուութեան ծանրացումին պատճառով: Ան ծառայութեան բեղուն շրջան մը ունեցաւ, որ տեսեց տասնընթիւ տարիներ: Ան պաշտօնապէս հանգստեան կոչուեցաւ 1 Օգոստ. 1987-ին: Անոր ժրաջան աշխատանքը՝ Աւետարանչականի հիմնադրամը բարձրացուց 25,578,088 տոլարի: Այս զարգացումը ատիթ եղաւ որ Աւետարանչականը իր ծառայութեան ծիրը ընդարձակէ՝ «նիւթական օժանդակութիւնը Եկեղեցիներուն, հրատարկութեան, կրթական օճախներու, բարեկիրական հաստատութիւններու, անկարներու յատուկ միութիւններու եւ այ մարդասիրական նպատակներու ծառայող մարմիններու»:⁶ Հետեւարար պիտմէի աճումով հենարաւոր դարձաւ նոր եւ մեծ ծրագիրներ իրազործե՛ ինչպէս կազմակերպումը Միտնիի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին, Հայկագեան Համալսարանի



համար ապահովել IPC շենքը Տիար Ստեփան Մուկարի նուիրատուութեամբ, Եփրեմ եւ Մարթա Փիլիպոսեան (Հայ Աւետարանական Գոյէճ) վարժարանին համար կառուցել եօթը յարկանի շենք մը՝ Հոռութ Փիլիպոսեանի նուիրատուութեամբ, նորոգութիւններ եւ յաւելումներ ընել Լիբանանի Հայ Աւետարանական վարժարաններուն եւ 100,000 տոլար հանգանակել Մերձաւոր Արեւելքի հովիւններու հանգստեան թոշակի հիմնադրութեան համար: Աւետարանչականի հետզիւտէ ծաւալող գործը կարիք ունէր կազմակերպելու նոր վարչական կառոյց մը: Հետեւարար նոր գրասենեակներ շինուեցան Փըրէմրսի (Նիւ Ճըրզի) Հայ Աւետ. Երիցական

Վեր. Դոկտ. Կիրակոս Զօփուրեան Աւետարանչականի նախկին Կեղրոնատեղին մէջ՝ աշխատանքի պահուն:



Եկեղեցիի կալուածին վրայ: Վեր. Զօփուրեան ունեցաւ շատ մը իրազործումներ: Ան իր ետին թողուց լաւ կազմակերպուած, աշխայժ ու ծաւալուն Ընկերակցութիւն մը:

Վեր. Դոկտ. Մովսէս Պոլսոյ ծանպագեան պաշտօնակոչուեցաւ որպէս Աւետարանչական Դաշտի Վարիչ Տնօրին 9 Սեպտ. 1980-ին: Վեր. Զօփուրեանի հետ եօթը տարիներ գործակցել եաք՝ 1 Օգոստ. 1987-ին նշանակուեցաւ Գործադիր Տնօրին: Ան իր ետանդուն ու անխոնց աշխատանքով՝ յաջողեցաւ աւելցնել նուիրատուութիւններու քանակը եւ մշակեց լայնածաւալ ծրագիրներ՝ դիմազրաւելու նոր մարտահրաւերները, որոնք կու զային Միջին Արեւելքի քաղաքական փոթորիկներէն ինչպէս Լիբանանի, Հայաստանի և Արցախի մեծ պատուհասները:

Լիբանանի 16-ամեա քաղաքացիական պատերազմը՝ մեծ վնասներ հասցուց բոլոր եկեղեցիներուն, դպրոցներուն եւ այլ հաստատութիւններուն, եւ ստեղծեց արտազադիր հոսանք մը, որ պարպեց Լիբանանի մէջ ծաղկող Հայկական գաղութը, յետին թողելով աղքատութիւն, տառապանք, ֆիզիքական եւ հոգեքանական հիւանդութիւններ, անզործութիւն եւ դպրոցական կեանքի ընդմիջում: Վեր. Ծանպագեան քանիցս այցելեց Լիբանան այդ ցաւալի օրերուն ու տուալ կարեի օգնութիւնը, յուսադիրեց առաջնորդները ու ժողովուրդը մաղթելով աւելի լաւ օրեր:

Վեր. Մովսէս Ծանպագեան կ'առաջնորդէ ՆՍՕՍՏ Արք Ա. Կաթողիկոսը դէսի Աւետարանչականի Կեղրոնատեղին իր տուած պաշտօնական այցելութեան ընթացքին - Հոկտ. 6, 1997:



Սովետական Միութեան անկումն ետք Հայաստան ստացաւ իր անկախութիւնը: Մինչ այդ՝ Արցախը ը բուէարկեց անջատուիլ Աստրավեճանն ու ըլլալ անկախ հանրապետութիւն մը: Այս պատճառով սկսաւ Արցախիւան ազատազրման պատերազմը, որու վրայ աւելցաւ 1988-ի երկրաշարժը, որ աւերեց քաղաքներ, աւաններ եւ գիւղեր Հայաստանի մէջ, ստեղծելով շատ դժուար վիճակ մը քաւրութեան, յիշելու համար օրինակ մը՝ խաւաքարտ փշրել ու ալիւրի հետ խաւոնել հաց պատրաստելու համար:

Այս փորձանքները հսկայական մարտահրաւեր էին ամբողջ հայութեան, մէջն ըլլալով Աւետարանչականը, որ իր բոլոր հնարաւորութիւնները գործածեց օգնութեան հասնելու մեր ազգի տառապէամներուն: Վեր. Ծանպագեան իմաստութեամբ գործածեց Ընկերակցութեան միջոցները՝ օգնելու Հայաստանի ու Արցախի վիրաւորին, անօթիին, անտունիին ու լրեալ խալին, որոնք յուսահատութեան գիրկը ինկած էին: Վեր. Ծանպագեան հաստատեց Աւետարանչականի կեղրոնները Երեւանի եւ Արցախի մէջ, որոնք օգնութեան

Կեդրոններ դարձան՝ բաժնելով ուտելիք, հագուստեղին, դեղօրայք, բժշկական օգնություն, նիւթական եւ դպրոցական նախաստ՝ բոլորին անխստիր կերպով: Ու այս ծառայութիւնները տակաւին կը շարունակուին մինչև այսօր աւելի հերթական ու կազմակերպուած կերպով: Ապագայի տեսիլքով տոգորուած՝ Վեր. ծանպագեան հիմնեց Հայաստանի Աւետարանական Աստուածաբանական Ակադեմիան՝ Երեւանի մէջ, ուրկէ շատ մը հովիներ, քարոզիչներ եւ Քրիստոնեայ դաստիարակներ շրջանաւարտ եղան ու կը ծառայեն տեղական եկեղեցիներուն մէջ: Վեր. ծանպագեանի ծանր պատասխանատուութիւններէն մէկը եղաւ Վարչական Կեդրոնաւտեղին փոխադրութիւնը 140 Forest Avenue-էն դէպի նորակառոյց Կեդրոնը՝ 31 West Century Road, Paramus, New Jersey-ի մէջ:

Լիբանանի 16-ամեայ պատերազմին պատճառով, Հայ Աւետարանական եկեղեցիներն ու դպրոցները եւ այլ բարեսիրական հաստատութիւնները քանդումներ կրեցին ու նորոգութեան եւ վերակառուցման պէտքը ունին: Վեր. ծանպագեան օգնեց որ անոնք վերանորոգուին եւ եկեղեցիներն ու դպրոցները վերաբացուեցան: Բայց պատերազմի ցաւալի հետքը տակաւին կը մնայ մարդոց սրտին ու մտքին մէջ:

Վեր. ծանպագեանի անակնկալ մահը 25 Մեւստ. 2000-ին, Աւետարանական, ինչպէս նաև բոլոր Հայ համայնքները խոր ցաւի մատնեց: «Տեսիլքի եւ Առաքելութեան Մարդը» չկարողացաւ իր ունեցած 23 երկիրներու տեսիլքը իրականացնել իր կանխահա շիջումին պատճառով: Մեծի Տանն Կիլիկիյ Կաթողիկոս Արամ Ա. իր 16-օկտեմբեր 2000 թուակիր կոնդակին մէջ կը նկարագրէ Վեր. ծանպագեանը հետեւեալ խօսքերով.

Ի՞նչ է Եւ Ի՞նչ Կ'ընէ Աւետարանչականը

Վեր. Դոկտ.Վահան Թութիկեան

Վարիւր տարի առաջ, Յունիս 7, 1918, Ամերիկայի Վուսթըր քաղաքին մէջ ծնունդ առաւ աւետարանչական ձգտումներով եւ հայկական ոգիով տոգորուն կազմակերպութիւն մը, Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւն անունով, որ իր կրճատուած անունով կը յորջորջուէր Աւետարանչական: Անոր հիմնադրութիւնը պատահականութեան ծնունդ չէր, այլ ազգային եւ հոգեւոր պահանջի մը:

Աւետարանչականը կազմակերպուեցաւ այնպիսի ժամանակ մը, երբ Արևմտահայութիւնը Յեղասպանութեան ճանկերէն դուրս կուգար անդամահատուած: Ժողովուրդին աւելի քան կէսը բնաջնուած էր: Մնացորդացը՝ որպէս խելակ հոս ու հոն նետուած, կիսամեռ կեանք մը կը վարէր: Հայ եկեղեցիներն ու դպրոցները, մշակոյթի կեդրոններն ու հաստատութիւնները քարուքանդ վիճակի մէջ էին: Իսկ Աւետարանչականի հիմնադրութենէն 10 օրէր առաջ, Մայիս 28-ին հոչակուած «Հայաստանի Հանրապետութիւնը» իր լինել չինելու ճակատագրական պայքարը կը մնէր:

Ազգային ներքին եւ արտաքին վերաշնուրեան բեռը կը ծանրանար Յեղասպանութենէն մազապուրծ ազատած վերապրոդներու ուսին վրայ: Մեր եկեղեցիներն ու մշակոյթային հաստատութիւնները պէտք ունին նիւթական միջոցներու, որպէս զի կարենային հասնի որբերուն ու որբերիներուն:

«Արդարեւ, Վերապատուելի Մովսէս Ճանպագեան իր ուսանողական տարիներէն սկսեալ մինչեւ հոգեւոր հովուութիւն, եւ իր ստանձնած զանազան պատասխանատուութիւններուն մէջ եղաւ ու մնաց ճշմարիտ Քրիստոնեայ ու ճշմարիտ Հայ մարդը: Քրիստոնէութիւնը իրեն համար սուկ ծէս ու աստուածաբանութիւն, դաւանանքը ու պաշտամունք չէր, այլ ամենօրեայ տագնապ ու գիտակից յանձնարարութիւն: Ահա թէ ինչու Քրիստոնէութիւնը ու հայութիւնը գեղեցկորէն ընդելուզուած մնացին Մովսէսի կեանքին ու ծառայութեան մէջ: Աստուածաբանական սկզբունքները ու ճշմարտութիւնները ան փորձեց ազգային ծառայութեան ճամբով բաշխել բոլորին, Լիբանանի թէ Պրազիլի, Ամերիկայի թէ Հայաստանի մէջ»:⁷

Շարունակելի յաջորդ թիւն...



Վեր.
Դոկտ. Վահան Թութիկեան
Խոսնական
նախալին
նախազահն
է Պետքի
Հայկագեան
Համապատակնի:

FOOTNOTES

6. G. H. Chopourian, *A Brief History of the Armenian Missionary Association of America* (AMAA, 1998), page 17
7. Վեր. Սովոր Ծանսպահան, Տեսիքի ու Առարկութեան Մարդը (AMAA, 2002) էջ 199

* Ընդհակապութեան արժանի է Լուիս Ճանպագեանի օգնութիւնը և ներդրումը այս գրութեան պատրաստութեան համար:

հիւանդներուն ու կարօտեալներուն. որպէս զի հոգեւոր սնունդ մատակարարէին վերապրոյ Մնացորդացին, եւ որպէս զի կարենային հայեցի դաստիարակութիւն շամբել նոր սերունդի հայորդիներուն:

Աւետարանչականի առաջնահերթ նպատակը բացատրելով անոր հիմնադիր անդամներէն ու առաջին գործադիր քարտուլար՝ Վեր. Սիհրան Գալայնեան, կը գրէր. «Մեր մարտիրոսացեալ հայ ազգը պիտի ապրէր իբրեւ ազգ եւ ծառայէր իբրեւ ջահակիր քրիստոնէական բարձր սկզբունքներուն... Ուրեմն անհրաժեշտ էր ամէն գնու սատարել մեր ազգային հոգեւոր վերաշնուրեան գործին»:

Վյսէս վերաշնուրեան դժուարին բայց վսեմ գործը սկսաւ: Իր սկզբնածագ օրէն սկսեալ Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը դարձաւ քարիքի, յոյսի և լոյսի մշտահոս աղբիւր մը, որմէ օգտուեցան Հայոց Յեղասպանութենէն Վերապրոյ բեկորները:

Հիւրընկալ երկիրներու մէջ մեծ կարիք կար եկեղեցիներու եւ դպրոցաշէնքերու: Աւետարանչականը իր օգնութեան ձևորը կարկառելով նոր եկեղեցիներ եւ դպրոցներ կառուցեց նորահաստատ հայ աւաններու եւ գիւղերու մէջ: Նոյնիսկ Յեղասպանութեան պատճառով կիսաշէն մնացած եկեղեցական վերաբանը կը դպրոցաշէնքերը ամբողջացան շնորհի Աւետարանչականի բարերարութեամբ:

Տնտեսական անձուկ պայմաններու հետեւանքով, հայ զաղթականներ հարկադրուեցան ցրուի հեռաւոր երկիրներու մէջ, ինչպէս Եւրոպա, Հիւսիսային և Հարավային Ամերիկա ուր հաստատեցին մնայուն բնակութիւն: Բայց ուր որ զացին, Աւետարանչականի օգնական ծեռքը հետեւեցաւ անոնց:

Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան գործունէութիւնը ամէն տարի աւելի ընդարձակուեցաւ, զարգացաւ նոր զաղափարներով ու ծրագիրներով: Ան իր կատարումներով ու նուաճումներով ամբողջ դար մը միշտ վերեկի մէջ եղաւ, տեսականօրէն աւելի հարստացաւ եւ աւելի մէծ գումարներով հասաւ մէր ժողովուրդի կարօտութեանց:

2017 տարեշրջանին անոր անդամակցութիւնը կը հասնէր շուրջ 22,000 ի, եւ անոր նիւթական հարասութիւնը՝ շուրջ 179 միլիոն տողարի, իսկ նիւթական բաշխումները՝ աւելի քան 9 միլիոն տողար: Ներկայիս անոր գործունէութիւնը կը տարածուի 24 երկիրներու մէջ:

Աւետարանչականի տեսական բարգասանումին ազդակները քաղմազան են, ինչպէս իր կազմակերպական մերենային կանոնադրութիւնը, իր պաշտօնէութեան հոգեւոր եւ ազգային նուիրական ծառայութեան մը կոչուած ըլլալու գիտակցութիւնը, իր հոգարաբութեան անվճար բայց սիրայօժան նուիրումը, եւ իր դեկավարութեան հետեւողական աշխատանքը:

Իր մէկ դարու յարածուն կենանքով ու գործով, Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը կը հանդիսանայ քրիստոնէական սիրոյ եւ ծառայութեան գիտակցութիւնը մարմնաւորող կազմակերպութիւն մը՝ նուիրուած հայ ժողովուրդի հոգեւոր եւ ազգային վերելիքն: Իր համապարփակ, բարերար գործունէութեանց զուգընթաց՝ Աւետարանչականը մէկէ աւելի ուղիներով իր ծառայութիւնը մատուցած է հայ ազգին եւ տակաւ ընդարձակած է իր գործունէութեան դաշտը՝ լայնօրէն նպաստելով Հայ Գիրին ու Պարութեան, Հայ Արուեստին ու Մշակոյթին:

Աւետարանչականը տարիներէ իվեր նեցուկ կեցած է Հայ Աւետարանական վարժարաններուն՝ նիւթական կարեւոր նպաստներ հայթայթելով անոնց: Ներկայիս Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին ունի 25 դպրոցներ, որոնք կը տարածուին Հայրենիքն մինչեւ Սփիտորի հետաւոր երկրամասերը: Սոյն կրթական հաստատութիւններու ամենէն անուանին կը հանդիսանայ Պէյրութի Հայկագեան Համալսարանը, որ Սփիտորահայութեան միակ համալսարանն է հիմնուած 1955-ին: Հայ Աւետարաններու աշակերտութեան 90 տոկոսն աւելին կը պատկանի ոչ-աւետարանական համայնքներուն որոնցմէ շատեր կրթանպաստ կը ստանան առանց խտրութեան: Այս բոլոր դպրոցները նիւթական օժանդակութիւն կը ստանան Աւետարանչականէն:

Աւետարանչականը նաև միշտ գիտակից եղած է մէր նոր սերունդները Եկեղեցիներուն մէջ պահելու՝ անոնց կրօնական դաստիարակութիւն զամբելով: Պատանեկան եւ երիտասարդական զանական ձեռնարկներուն համար ան տարեկան մեծ նուիրատուութիւններ կ'ընէ: Տարիներէ ի վեր ան Սփիտորի մէջ, իսկ 1990-էն ի վեր Մայր Հայրենիքի մէջ, Հայ Աւետարանական կենրոններու եւ ճամբարներու միջոցաւ կը զամբէ քրիստոնէական եւ հայեցի դաստիարակութիւնը թրծելով նոր սերունդներ Եկեղեցափրութեան եւ հայրենասիրութեան ոգիով:

Աւելին, Աւետարանչականը տասնամեակներէ ի վեր իր նպաստը կը բերէ հոգեւոր գործիներու պատրաստութեան գործին մէջ: Հարկ է յիշել, որ Հայ Աւետարանական ներկայ

գործօն հովիւներուն եւ հոգեւոր գործիներուն ջախչախիչ մեծամասնութիւնը իրենց ուսանողութեան տարիներուն նպաստընկաններն եղած են Աւետարանչականին:

Բայց աստի, Աւետարանչականը իր մեծ դերը ունեցած է հրատարակչական գործին մէջ: Ան մէկէ աւելի հանգամանքներով ծառայած է, եւ թէ կը շարունակէ ծառայել հայ մշակոյթին, զիրին ու գրականութեան: Հազի երկու տարեկան՝ ան սկսաւ հրատարակել «Լրատու» եռամսեայ թերթը: Հետազայ տարիներուն՝ «Աւետագիր», AMAA Record, The Armenian American Outlook եւ AMAA News թերթերը: Ան նաև նիւթապէս եւ բարոյապէս օժանդակած է հայ Աւետարանական մամուլին, ինչպէս նաև մեկենաս եղած է տասնեակներով գիրքերու հրատարակութեանց:

Իր ծննդեան օրէն սկսեալ, Աւետարանչականը եղած է աշխարհացրի հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու միացնող արծաթեայ թեկը՝ սատարելով անոնց բարոյական, հոգեւոր եւ նիւթական կարիքներուն:

Աւետարանչականի Հարիւրամեայ Յորեկեանին առթիւ, մինչ մէր յարգանքի տուրքը կ'ընծայենք անոր երշանկայիշատակ հիմնադիրներուն եւ անոնց յաջորդող նուիրեալ երախտաւորներուն, կ'աղօթենք որ Աստուած օրինէ զայն իր առատ օրինութիւններով, որպէս զի ան շարունակէ ընթանալ դէայ աւելի լուսաւէտ հորիզոններ, յառաջիկայ հարիւրամեակին: □



Հարիւրամեայ Յանձնառութիւն

Զաւէն Խանճեան

Rարիւր տարիներ առաջ, 1918-ին, հոյ մը հայորդիներ, զիտակից հայ ժողովուրդի յետ Եղեռնեան անմորմոց ցաւին եւ կսկիծին եւ անսալով Աւետարանի սրբազն պատզամին ծնունդ տուին Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան:

Քսանեւեօթը տարիներ առաջ, 1991-ին անսալով ցեղի ձայնին եւ հայրենի հողի կանչին, Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը՝ Եսայի Մարգարեի նման «Ահաւասիկ ես, զի՞ս որկե» պատասխանեց Աստուծոյ «Ո՞վ որկեմ եւ մեզի համար ո՞վ պիտի երթայ» ձայնին եւ ուր դրա ինքնավար եւ ինքնիշխան, նորանկախ Հայաստանի եւ Արցախի բազմահազարամեայ հոդին վրայ:

Մնացեալը պատմութեան կը պատկանի եւ անոր վկայութիւնն է: Յետ Եղեռնեան Միջին Արեւելի անապատներու մէջ կեանքի բարակ թելին նախախնամական հրաշքով փաթթուող զանգուածներու, գաղթականական հոսանքներու բերումով աշխարհասփիւո տարածուող հայութեան եւ յետ անկախութեան հայրենիքի խարսխեալ հզօրութիւնը եւ ընդհանրապէս հայ ժողովուրդի հոգեւոր, իմացական եւ Փիզիքական բարօրութիւնը նպատակ ունենալով, Աւետարանչականը լուր եւ անտրտունջ ծառայեց հայ ժողովուրդին: Ակսերով պատմական հայրենիքի շրջապատին մէջ զինք գրկարաց ընդունող արաքական ասպեչական երկիրներէն մինչեւ Եւրոպան եւ Ամերիկաները կայք հաստատող եւ վերջապէս Հայաստանի եւ Արցախի հեռաւոր սահմաններուն մէջ ապրող հայ ժողովուրդին՝ Աւետարաչականը մասուցեց իր բազմաշերտ ծառայութիւնները:

Անհարդախ սիրով եւ համապարփակ ոգիով Աւետարանչականը իր հոգածութեան հովանին տարածեց այրիացած մօր, որքացած որդույն, անտէր մանուկին, հիւանդ պատանիին, անդէկ երիտասարդին, անխարիսխ չափահասին, կրթութիւն եւ զիտութիւն տենչացող ուսանողին, տարեցին եւ թոշակառուին վրայ: Անոր ուշադրութեան առարկայ դարձաւ ցեղասպանութենէն նողուած հայրենակորուստ զանգուածներէն մինչեւ Միջին Արեւելի աղետահար հայութիւնը եւ անկախ հայրենիքի բաղարացին, սահմանամերձ հայ զիւղը եւ զիւղացին, բանակն ու զինծառայողը, վիրաւորն ու իհիւանանոցը, նահատակ հերոսի ծնողն ու զաւակները, բոլորին առողջութիւնն ու կենսամակարդակը, ուսումն ու զարգացումը:

Աւետարանչականը, դարաւոր Մայր Եկեղեցի սրբազն առաքելութեան կողքին խիզախօրէն տարածեց Աստուծոյ խօսքը, բաժնեց Քրիստոսի բարի լուրը եւ հաւատքի ակունքներուն առաջնորդեց հայ անհատը:

Ակնարկելով Աւետարանչականի հիմնադրութեան անհրաժեշտութեան՝ Ընկերակցութեան առաջին Գործադիր Քարտուղար Վեր. Գալայնեան կը բացատքէ:

«Մենք հիմնեցինք Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը, այն պատճառով որ մենք մեր ամբողջ հոգիով կը հաւատայինք թէ մարտիրոսացեալ հայ ազգը պիտի ապրէր իրրեւ ազգ, ծառայելու որպէս չափակիր քրիստոնէական բարձր քաղաքակրթութեան՝ Մերձաւոր Արեւելի ժողովուրդներուն մէջ: Ուրեմն, հարկ եւ անհրաժեշտ էր ամեն զնով սաստարել մեր ազգային հոգեւոր վերաշինութեան գործին: Համոզուած էինք

թէ հայկական հարազատ ոգիով տողորուած Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին, իրրեւ հոգեւոր եւ բարոյական զօրաւոր ազդակ, կարեւոր ու կենաւական դեր ունի կատարելիք ազգապահապահնան եւ ազգային վերաշինութեան մեծ գործին մէջ»:

Մհայ Աւետարանչականը՝ երեկ, այսօր եւ վաղը:

Այսօր, աւելի քան երեք, նորոգոզած խինդով եւ լարուած հաւատքով կը դիմաւորենք ապազան, բեռնաւորուած անխախտ յանձնառութեամբ եւ պինդ կամքով շարունակելու աւելի փայուն գալիքի մը տենչացող մեր առաքելութիւնը:

Եւ կ'ուխտենք:

Ա. Աստուծոյ

Որբեւ ազգ՝ մենք տեսած ենք Աստուծոյ շնորհքը մեր ժողովուրդի յարութեան մէջ որ անցած է մահուան շուրջ ձորով:

Որպէս կազմակերպութիւն՝ մենք վայելած ենք Աստուծոյ հաւատարմութիւնը եւ օրինութիւնը Աւետարանչականի առաքելութեան եւ մէկ դարենայ կեանքի մէջ:

Ուստի կ'ուխտենք շարունակել մեր առաքելութիւնը նուիրուած երանդով եւ խանդավարութեամբ՝ անսասան կերպվ տարածելու Աստուծոյ խօսքը եւ Աւետարանի բարի լորը մեր ազգակիցներուն եւ այլոց հետեւելով Մեծ Առաջարանքին (The Great Commission) «Գացէր բոլոր աշխարհի ու Աւետարանը քարոզեցէր բոլոր ստեղծուածներուն» Մարկոս 16:15:

Բ. Մեր Վստահողներուն եւ մեր անդամներուն

Կ'ուխտենք շարունակել ծառայել եւ գործել հիմնուած այն սկզբունքներու վրայ որոնք առաջնորդած են մեր գործունեութեան ուղին անցեալին, այսօր եւ վաղը: Ուղամանութեան, հաջուետուութեան, թափանցիկութեան եւ պատասխանատուութեան սկզբունքներու վրայ:

Գ. Նոր Սերունդին

Մենք օրինուած ենք իխանալի եւ խոստմնայից երիտասարդ սերունդով մը որ կը գտնուի Աւետարանչականի (ազգին) դեկապարութիւնը ստանձնելով հրամայականին առջեւ:

Կ'ուխտենք լաւագոյնս կառավարել եւ տնտեսել մեր նախնիներու ծեռքբերումները եւ տքնի իրականացնել մեր հարիւրամեայ դրամահաւաքի արշակ նպատակները:

Նաև կ'ուխտենք ստեղծել անհրաժեշտ աղբիւրները ապազայի կարիքները յարթահարելու համար:

Եւ վերջապէս մեր ուխտը

Դ. Մեր Ժողովուրդին

Ոչ կայսրութիւններ եւ ոչ կառոյցներ: Մեր ուշադրութեան առարկան հայ անհատն է:

Մենք կ'ուխտենք բարեփոխիւ անհատին կեանքք: Մեր հաւատքական գործունեութիւնը կարելի է ամփոփել այն հաւատքութեամբ թէ մենք ինչպէս կարող ենք ազդել մեր ժողովուրդի հոգեւոր եւ ֆիզիքական բարեկեցութեան վրայ՝ Սուրիոյ թէ Արցախի, Մերձաւոր Արեւելի թէ Եւրոպայի, Հայրենիքի թէ Ամերիկաներու մէջ:

Աւետարանչականը՝ «Հաւատարմ մեր Ժառանգութեան եւ Ընկրպելով Ապազան» Faithful to Our Legacy and Embracing the Future

կ'ուղղուի յառաջ:

Եկեք քալենք միասին:

Փառք Աստուծոյ եւ Յաւերժութիւն հայոց աշխարհին: □

IN MEMORIAM: REV. JIRAIR M. SOGOMIAN

1937 - 2018



Reverend Jirair Sogomian, Pastor, university Chaplain and former Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), passed away on March 11, 2018, after a courageous years-long battle with Lewy Body Dementia.

Rev. Sogomian was born Jirair Missak Apissoghomian in Alexandria, Egypt and was one of six siblings, three brothers and three sisters. He received his early education at Armenian private schools and at the Collège Saint Marc High School in Alexandria. Jirair felt the call to ministry during his youth in Egypt, in part due to the inspiration of Rev. Theodore Daghlian of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Alexandria.

Following the completion of his secondary education, Jirair journeyed to Beirut, Lebanon, where he attended Haigazian College, American University of Beirut and Near East School of Theology. In 1961, while still in Beirut, Jirair married Grace Khachadourian, daughter of Rev. Nerses and Gulenia Khachadourian.

In 1962, at the age of 25, Jirair and Grace came to the United States, and he attended Milligan College in Tennessee, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1963. They next relocated to Hartford, Connecticut, where Jirair continued his theological studies at Hartford Seminary and received his Master of Divinity degree in 1965. During his seminary education, Jirair acted as a student minister in charge of youth at the Groton Congregational Church. The Pastor of that church, Rev. Dr. Robert Bermudes, was a generous mentor to Jirair.

Rev. Sogomian began his pastoral ministry at the United Armenian Calvary Congregational Church in Troy, New York, where he was ordained and led the church for three years. His daughter Sharon was born during this time. He then served for two years as Associate Pastor and Minister of Christian Education and Youth at Wapping Community Church, United Church of Christ (UCC) in Wapping (now South Windsor), Connecticut. His son Mark was born in Connecticut.

Responding to a call for Armenian pastors, Rev. Sogomian continued his ministry with the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit in Southfield, Michigan, for five years from 1970 to 1975. During his tenure in Michigan, the Church hosted the 1971 convention at which East and West Coast Unions merged and established the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA).

In 1975, with the urging and support of another dear mentor, Rev. Dr. John Markarian, Rev. Sogomian moved with his family to Beirut, Lebanon, to be the Chaplain of Haigazian College (now Haigazian University) where he was also a lecturer in religious studies and was active in recruiting young people for future leadership in the ministry. While living in Beirut, Rev. Sogomian and his family traveled to Egypt and Iran in response to invitations to serve as a guest preacher, and to Kessab, Syria, where he acted as a youth leader with the Armenian Evangelical summer youth camp. Soon after the move to Beirut, civil war broke out in Lebanon, and Rev. Sogomian sustained a gunshot wound to his hand.

Rev. Sogomian and his family returned to the U.S. in late 1975, and in 1976 relocated to California, where he pastored Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church in Los Angeles, California, for three years. Rev. Sogomian was instrumental in facilitating the successful purchase of the church's current property in Downey, California, where the congregation has worshipped for 40 years.

To address the needs of the Armenian immigrants in the Los Angeles area, Rev. Sogomian teamed up with his wife's uncle, Jimmy Koundakjian, and established the AMAA-sponsored Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center in Hollywood, California, which tended to the needs of thousands of immigrants from Armenia.

In 1979, Rev. Sogomian accepted the challenge of ministering to a fledgling community church in Simi Valley, California. Under his leadership, Shepherd of the Valley UCC thrived and grew, and he faithfully served this congregation and community for 10 years. In 1981, Jirair married Lorraine Deovlet. During this time, he helped lead several mission endeavors, serving the homeless, the hungry, and those in need of mental health care. He became an ecumenical leader in the area, organizing conferences as well as pastoral retreats.

In 1990, Rev. Sogomian and Lorraine moved to Havertown, Pennsylvania, to pastor the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church for 11 years until 2001. During his ministry there, the Church sponsored four Armenian refugee families, assisting them until they became well established. While in the Philadelphia area, Jirair led Armenian ecumenical programs such as joint Vartanantz celebrations and Armenian Martyrs' Day commemorations. He also worked on the AEUNA Stewardship and Theological Education Committees and led the Church to make a significant commitment to the AEUNA Theological Education Endowment Fund.

Rev. Sogomian was called by the AMAA to be its Executive Director in 2001. Multilingual and known for his goal-oriented administrative skills and organizational leadership, he served the AMAA and its mission faithfully until 2003.

In 2003, Rev. Sogomian and Lorraine retired to Huntington Beach, California, to be close to their children and grandchildren. However, Jirair's retirement was interrupted by a call to serve as Interim Pastor of the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church in Downey, California for six years until his final retirement in 2011.

Both in the United States and the Middle East, Rev. Sogomian served with distinction and dedication. He had a natural God-given gift for ministering to people who were suffering and in need of spiritual guidance and comfort. He made time to faithfully visit members of his congregations who were sick, hospitalized, and who, because of illness or disability, were confined to their homes; the personal connections he made with his parishioners were impactful and transformative. Time and again, he led and inspired his congregations to reach out into the community at large to serve the less fortunate, the hungry, the homeless and dispossessed.

Rev. Sogomian contributed greatly to the life and ministries of the AMAA and AEUNA. Colleagues from the AMAA, AEUNA, Armenian Evangelical Church community, in addition to family members and friends, faithfully visited Rev. Sogomian during his illness and through his final days.

A memorial service honoring and celebrating the life and work of Rev. Sogomian was held on April 13, 2018 at Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church, Downey, California. Mourners included family, friends, church members and associates who had a deep personal connection to Rev. Sogomian, many of whom traveled a great distance to be present. The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Executive Director, Armenian Evangelical World Council, led the service, with tributes and memories shared by Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian, Pastor, Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church; Rev. Dr. Vartkes Kassouni, Former Moderator, AEUNA; Rev. Dr. John Khanjian, Former President, Haigazian University; Dr. Eileen Chopourian Stephey, Lay Leader, Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church; and Rev. Sogomian's children, Sharon Sogomian Mequet and Mark Sogomian. Baghdo Khojikian, Lay Leader, Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church, sang two solos accompanied by Rev. Dr. John Khanjian; Jake Mequet, Rev. Sogomian's grandson, read scripture; and Mrs. Melanie Vetrano served as the organist. Following the service, there was a memorial luncheon where friends, relatives, colleagues and parishioners shared additional memories and remarks.

Rev. Sogomian is survived by his wife Lorraine; his children Sharon Sogomian Mequet and Mark Sogomian; Lorraine's children Michael Deovlet, Sheri Olson and Allison Vamvas; sisters Chaké Weigmann, Aida Dishman and Marie Galustian; brothers Arty Sagan and Berge Apissoghomian; and his grandchildren and extended family.

Donations in memory of Rev. Sogomian can be made to the AMAA or to the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Downey, CA.

Editor's Note: AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian with his wife Sona visited with Badveli Jirair on March 7, a few days before his passing. They enjoyed singing hymns that Rev. Sogomian liked and spent time in prayer with him. Mr. Khanjian sent a special message on behalf of the AMAA to the Memorial Service of Rev. Sogomian, which was read by Levon Filian, West Coast Executive Director of the AMAA. May God's grace, the love of Jesus Christ, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit be with the family and loved ones of Rev. Sogomian.

IN MEMORIAM: REV. DR. ARA JIZMEJIAN

1967 – 2018



Reverend Dr. Ara Jizmejian was born December 21, 1967, in Nicosia, Cyprus to a Christian family, Mihran and Vartouhi Jizmejian. On the week of his birth even President of Cyprus Archbishop Makarios greeted him into the world.

At the age of six, the family moved to Lebanon, where he attended the elementary section of the Armenian Evangelical Central High School of Ashrafieh. A few years later, Ara became a big brother to Hrair and when Ara was nine, the family moved to Toronto, Canada. Mihran and Vartouhi were working evenings, and so at the age of nine, Ara began to watch and care for his younger brother. God was preparing Ara to watch over young people, even at an early age.

Ara was never challenged scholastically. School came easy for him and he breezed through education. However, the real challenge for Ara was in sports so he decided to enroll in many activities. In his last year of secondary education, he was awarded the "athlete of the year," because he had enrolled in 14 extracurricular activities including cross-country, badminton, basketball, volleyball, chess club, American football, and ping pong.

At the age of 16, Ara was given the opportunity to share his testimony in church. He took this seriously. A few days before, he paced the hallway back and forth going over what he was going to say. He took the time and recorded it and played it back, memorizing what he was to say. After he shared it in church, he told his mom that "He really enjoyed doing this and he should be doing this all his life."

He finished his primary and secondary education in Toronto and upon graduating, he enrolled at the University of Toronto. After his first year, he decided he did not want to continue at the University, so he found a job that paid the most at the student employment center. The person remarked, "This is a heavy job." It was a shingles factory, and he had to carry hot pails of tar through the factory when the conveyor belt stopped. Before the end of the summer, he came back and said, "I'm going back to University." He had noticed that the factory workers were intelligent people but were stuck doing this job because they had no education or could not speak the language, so he did not want to be like them. He returned to the University and finished with a Bachelors in Economics.

During this time Ara attended the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto's youth group, where he also served as the Church's Sunday school teacher, summer VBS leader, member of the council, and eventually as a youth leader.

After he completed his bachelors, during the summer months, Ara thought about his future, and it was during this time he received his call into ministry. He attended the University of Toronto's Victoria College Seminary for one year and then continued his education at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, MA where he received his Masters of Divinity degree in 1997.

Sylvia Melkonian and Ara met at the annual spring retreat at Muskoka Woods for the Montreal and Toronto churches. Eventually they served together on the Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship (AEYF) Executive Committee and various other opportunities such as AEYF mission trips. In 1995, they dated for one week, and then Ara proposed. They were married on January 6, 1996.

During their first several years of marriage, Ara and Sylvia served as Joint Youth Group leaders for the First Armenian Church of Belmont, MA and Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA. Upon completion of his Masters of Divinity degree, he served his one year of internship at the First Armenian Church of Belmont under Rev. Vartan Hartunian's supervision.

Before beginning his pastoral ministry, he was ordained on April 19, 1998 at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto by the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA). He received his first pastoral call from the Armenian Church of the Martyrs in Worcester, MA, where he served for 7 years, from 1998 until 2004.

In 2000, Rev. Ara and Sylvia were instrumental with the foundation of AEUNA's camp ministry to be launched on the East Coast, the Camp AREVELK. In December of the same year, they welcomed their first son, Garen. In 2001, while serving at the Armenian Church of the Martyrs, Rev. Ara stepped into the role of AEUNA Eastern Region Youth Minister. He served in this capacity until 2016, where at the recent Biennial, the AEUNA amended his role and changed his title to Director of AEUNA/AEYF Ministries of the Eastern Region Churches.

In August of 2004, Rev. Ara and Sylvia welcomed their second son, Cedric, and in July of 2006, they welcomed their third son, Ara.

In 2005, Rev. Ara saw a need at one of the AEUNA communities and became an Interim Senior Pastor of the Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church in Providence, RI. He would commute back and forth from Worcester and shepherd the congregation. Rev. Ara was also instrumental in arranging and supervising Rev. Mgo Mekredjian's pastoral internship, from 2006 to 2008. In 2011, Rev. Ara completed his Doctorate in Preaching from his alma mater Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Throughout the years, Rev. Dr. Ara served the AEUNA's Eastern Region churches by shepherding and caring for the youth, the congregations, and the pastoral staff. Rev. Dr. Ara was a visionary and expanded the AEYF's ministries from four conferences to a variety of different conferences like AEYF Plus, AEYF Juniors, counselor trainings, and recently, a family retreat. His heart was always with the AEYF, to be promoting Christ, developing disciples, and building leaders so they can in turn serve in their churches, and to see God's kingdom grow amongst Armenian Evangelical Churches.

Rev. Dr. Ara passed away with his family by his side on Thursday, April 12, 2018, in Worcester, MA. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, April 18 at the First Armenian Church of Belmont MA and a Memorial Service on Sunday, May 13 at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto, ON, Canada. Memorial donations may be made to Camp Arevelk. He is survived by his father and mother, Mihran and Vartouhi Jizmejian, brother Hrair, his wife Sylvia and three sons, Garen, Cedric and Ara.

Editor's Note: On April 4, 2018, AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian with his wife Sona visited with Rev. Dr. Ara Jizmejian and his family, spending time in prayer and reflection. A message of condolence from Mr. Khanjian was sent to the Funeral Service for Rev. Dr. Jizmejian, which took place in Belmont, MA. Mr. Khanjian participated at the Memorial Service in Toronto on May 13, 2018 and brought his message on behalf of the AMAA. May God comfort the family members and loved ones of Rev. Dr. Ara Jizmejian.

George Barzakian

On April 18, 2018, the Lord called George Barzakian (Purzekian) home at the age of 79, surrounded by his family and friends.



George was born in Rehaniye, Turkey to parents Ohannes and Nazira. The youngest of four children, he lost his father when he was two years old. The family immigrated to Aleppo, Syria where he lived most of his life. George married his first wife, Seta Khorasanian, in 1967 and God granted them four children Nora, Maral, Hovig and Taline. He was an active member of the Assyrian Evangelical Church in Aleppo, where he served as a Board member and Treasurer for many years. He loved the Lord with all his heart and accepted Him as his Lord and Savior at a young age. He received his spiritual nourishment by praying

and reading the Bible every day, attending the church worship services regularly, and raising a family where Christ was Lord, just as he learned from his devout mother. As a result, George's children were rooted in the love of the Word of God. At the same time, he was a member of the Emmanuel Armenian Evangelical Church in Aleppo, where his children attended Sunday school, youth group and were actively involved in church life. He was a devoted and caring father, and a loving husband. He lost his wife unexpectedly in February 2002 but stayed strong by leaning on the promises of God.

As an experienced tractor mechanic, George worked hard and was appreciated by the community. He saw the proper education of his children as a priority. They all married and had families and children and his grandchildren were his love and joy.

In 2011, while visiting his daughter Taline in Philadelphia, he met his current wife, Kayaneh Shirozian. She was there for him

when he was diagnosed with cancer and cared for him with love and patience. He battled the disease with faith accepting the will of God in his life.

George is survived by his wife Kayaneh and his children, Nora (Samuel Kerbabian of Aleppo), Maral (Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian of Beirut), Hovig (Vicky of Toronto), Taline (Sevag Shirozian of Philadelphia) and grandchildren: Kachig, Garin, Arda, Talar, Shogher, Serly, Karni, Ari and Shant. He is also survived by his eldest brother, Boghos (Louisa) Purzekian, and sister, Lydia Purzekian, both of Australia, as well as his extended family and friends here and abroad.

Funeral services were held on April 24 at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA officiated by Rev. Dr. Peter B. Doghramji. Interment was at Glenwood Memorial Gardens. Donations in his memory can be made to the Armenian Martyrs' Church of Havertown or the St. Gregory Armenian Illuminators Church of Philadelphia. □

Christine Boyajian

Christine Ann Bahadourian Boyajian, 45, of Natick, MA died peacefully on Monday March 12, 2018 at Massachusetts General Hospital. She was the beloved wife of Paul Gary Boyajian for nearly 20 years and loving mother of Alexander Hagop age 16, and Mark Robert age 11.



Born in New York, New York, she was the daughter of Anahid (Batmanian) Bahadourian and the late Haroutune Bahadourian, sister of Armen Bahadourian and his wife Ani and their children Kyle and Leilani, sister in law of Christine Kotchian and her husband Girair and their children Catherine and Michael.

Christine was a graduate of Bentley College and worked as a Human Resource specialist in New York and Boston. Above all, most important to Christine was her faith in Christ, her love for God and providing love and support to her husband and two sons. She expressed her faith in everything she did and it guided her throughout her life with her family and friends.

A memorial service was held on March 17 at the First Armenian Church, Belmont, MA. be private.

Expressions of sympathy may be made in her memory to the First Armenian Church of Belmont, MA, or General Hospital Metastatic Breast Cancer Research Fund in Massachusetts. □

Luther Derian

Luther Derian (Deyirmendjian) of Los Angeles, CA passed away on April 25, 2018. He was born on February 24, 1932 in Jerusalem, Palestine to Nazenik and Benjamin and had two older brothers, Simon and Harry.



Just after 1948 when the political climate in Jerusalem changed, Luther's older brothers emigrated to the United States and Luther and his parents fled to Amman, Jordan, hoping to return to Jerusalem within a few months. However, in late 1948, Luther's father passed away and his mother decided to send Luther to join his brothers in the US. It wasn't until June 1952 that Luther arrived in New York and soon after, he joined Harry and Simon in Los Angeles.

Not long after arriving in Los Angeles, Luther was drafted into the Army in April 1953 during the Korean War. He became a US citizen on December 7, 1953 just a year after arriving in the States. It was at this time, he and his brothers decided to shorten their last name from Deyirmendjian to Derian. Luther was honorably discharged from the Army in April 1955.

In 1956, Luther's mother joined him in Los Angeles. With the assistance of the GI Bill,

Serge Krikorian

Serge Krikorian of Wyckoff, NJ and a life long supporter of AMAA passed away on March 6, 2018 at the age of 85.



Serge was born on November 6, 1932 to the late Krikor and Acabi Krikorian. Along with his sister Anahid, the family lived in Sunnyside, Queens and then moved to Riverdale in the Bronx. A graduate of DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx, he enlisted in the Navy, proudly serving on the USS Purdy during the Korean War before being honorably discharged in 1956. He attended New York University earning his Bachelor of Arts in Business.

Serge began his career at Lehman Brothers before joining Hekemian and Co. in Hackensack where he headed the Insurance Department for over 50 years. He was still proudly working every day right up until his recent health issues. He truly loved interacting with his fellow employees and clients and always looked forward to lunches with colleagues and friends. Serge was passionate about giving back and had a special place in his heart for young people in the local community. He served as part of numerous organizations, notably as a longtime member and former President of the Hackensack Rotary. He also served as Commissioner of the Armenian Churches Sports Association and led

Luther was able to obtain a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from California State University in 1960.

In 1963 while visiting his cousin Mary Etian in Chicago, he was re-connected with Mary's daughter Arda, not having seen her since his time in Amman, Jordan. After corresponding with her for two years, Luther proposed to Arda, however she was hesitant at first as she wanted to graduate college before their engagement. He assured her that she would be able to do that after they were married. They were married in Chicago in 1965 and settled in Los Angeles. Luther kept his promise and Arda was able to finish her education. Together they had 3 daughters, Karenne, Sonya and Lisa.

Luther worked in various positions as a civil/environmental engineer for the city of Los Angeles for 37 years and retired in 1996 at the age of 64. He enjoyed his retirement by traveling more frequently, staying active by regularly going to the YMCA, as well as spending quality time with his family and friends.

Luther is survived by his wife Arda, daughters Karenne, Sonya and Lisa, son-in-law Steve Sarkessian, and three grandchildren, Devin Lawrence, Christopher and Maya Sarkessian.

The funeral service was held May 4 at the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Los Angeles, CA. Donations may be sent in Luther's memory to C & E Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School in Sherman Oaks, CA. □

the Armenian Presbyterian Church's basketball program for many years. He could always be found on Sunday afternoons keeping the scorebook at the league's basketball games.

His greatest achievement was his family. He and his wife Ann were married on October 6, 1963, first living in Hackensack before settling in Wyckoff and raising their four children, Elizabeth, Gregory, Aimee and Douglas. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He cherished his time with family both in Wyckoff and at the family home on the Jersey Shore. He loved the Yankees and Rangers and one of his greatest memories was being at Game 7 of the 1994 Stanley Cup Finals to see his Rangers finally raise the Cup!

Serge is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Ann Krikorian. Devoted father to Elizabeth Aynilian and her husband Nicholas, Gregory Krikorian and his wife Tamara, Aimee Kientopp and her husband Bob, and Douglas Krikorian and his wife Yana. Grandfather to 10 beautiful grandchildren: Nicholas Jr., Stephanie, Thomas, Paige, Caroline, Brandon, Sophia, Kayla, Kyle and Damian. Dear brother of Anahid Krikorian. Serge cherished the friendships he had with so many that touched his life. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Visitation was held on March 14 at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ. Donations may be made to the Armenian Presbyterian Church or the Hackensack Rotary. □

Rose Levonian

Rose Levonian of Watertown, MA, formerly of Framingham, passed away on January 2, 2017.



Rose died last year after a life career of service to community and church charities. Upon the death of her mother, she came to the United States at the age of six to live with her father, sister Lucy and brother-in-law George Nazarian. From an early age, Rose's faith was nurtured by her Christian family and by the religious education she received at the Armenian Memorial Church in Watertown.

After working for a YMCA in Boston, she decided to follow a career in service through the YMCA and attended Springfield College graduating in 1957 with a degree in humanities. Rose began her career after college as the Women and Girls' Director at the YMCA in Joliet, IL. During the ten years she served there, Rose was a positive influence and a much-loved community leader.

Rose joined the staff of The Pine Street United Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, PA in 1967 as Director of the Boyd Memorial Center. Under her leadership, the Center provided programs for the elderly, people in need and youth. She also served on the Pastoral Staff of the Church, which honored her in 1982 with a service of praise and thanksgiving for her ministry.

Rose returned home to Massachusetts in 1982 to become the Associate Director of Camps and Conferences of the United Churches of Christ. Wherever she served, she left a legacy of loving care. She gave her love and was beloved by many. In her retirement, she was an active member of The Plymouth Church in Framingham. For the last five years of her life, Rose lived in an assisted living facility in Watertown near her large extended family.

Although Rose's career of service and ministry extended beyond the Armenian community, she cherished and maintained her connection to that community. A woman of modest means, she nevertheless made bequests to her original Armenian Memorial Church and to the AMAA whose work was dear to her heart.

She was the beloved daughter of the late Levon and Victoria Halebian Levonian, devoted sister of Angel Parseghian and the late Lucy Nazarian, Hripsime Nazarian and Euphronia Kabakian, loving aunt of Victoria Tomasian and her husband Dr. Aram Tomasian and George Nazarian and his wife Elizabeth. She is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

A memorial service was held at Plymouth Church of Framingham on January 8, 2017. □

George Manougian

George Manoukian of San Jose, CA, passed away peacefully on January 11, 2018, one day after his 60th wedding anniversary. He was 94.



George was born to Dr. and Mrs. Misak Manoukian in Lebanon. His father was a country doctor serving three towns in the mountains of Lebanon, reaching patients by horse and mule. George loved to feed and water the animals.

He had two brothers and one sister, two sets of twins. He played with the Arab neighbor boys and went to school with them. He also went to Sunday School and learned about Jesus from a missionary woman sent to Lebanon to teach the children.

When George was 13, the family returned to Beirut. George left his happy childhood behind to study in the city and to pursue violin lessons. In his early twenties, he accepted the Lord as Savior and the unquenchable flame to win the lost burned in his heart.

He attended the American University for four years and then started a business of his own. He became a Lighting Fixtures Specialist and designed and manufactured beautiful lamps, marble tables and chandeliers for his customers, many of whom were Americans.

His marriage to Esther Salibian, his pastor's daughter, enabled them to seek the lost together, wherever and whenever the Lord led. He became a Gideon in 1966 and graduated from the Child

Evangelism Fellowship Leadership Training Institute in 1973 with Esther.

In 1975, war erupted in Lebanon but the Manoukian family was spared bullets, rockets and bombs. They settled in the United States with their five children, Christine, Sylvia, Norair, Lena and Ari. The Lord eventually called them to the land of their ancestors in Armenia to establish Child Evangelism in a formerly atheistic society. It was God's doing, and it was teamwork to the praise of His grace.

George shared the Gospel to his last breath. On the same day of his passing, seven medical workers received Gideon testaments. His wife, five children, fifteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren are the blessed recipients of George's legacy. □

Margaret Nalbandian

Margaret Setian Nalbandian of Warwick, RI, an AMAA Life Member and supporter of AMAA's Child Sponsorship Program, passed away on September 10, 2017 at the age of 91. Margaret was the wife of Jack Nalbandian. Two weeks after her passing Margaret and Jack would have celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary.



Born in Providence, RI, Margaret was the daughter of the late Zakar and Armenouhi Toutarian Setian and lived in Cranston before moving to Warwick in 1953.

Margaret was a member of the Spring Green Memorial Church for 64 years, serving as church pianist for 25 years. An active member of the Church, she served in many other capacities including singing in the adult choir, director of the youth choir, and as a member of WIGS.

Margaret worked for the RI Department of Children, Youth and Families in Providence before raising her own children. She later became a travel agent, sparking a love and interest in cruise travel. A well-respected, self-taught pianist, gifted seamstress and avid shopper, Margaret loved spending time with her husband, together enjoying activities such as bowling and ballroom dancing.

In addition to her husband, Margaret is survived by two daughters, Carol A. Johnson and her husband Fredrick, and June E. Dowiot and her husband Robert; a son, Martin J. Nalbandian and his wife Deborah; and a brother, Leo Setian. She had nine treasured grandchildren: Alissa, Andrew, Joshua, Jonathan, Justin, Nicole, Kimberly, Jessica, and

Emily; and eight great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Richard Setian. Even in declining health, Margaret kept her strong spirit, determination, and sense of humor. She was an inspiration to those around her and will be greatly missed.

A memorial service was held on September 30 at Spring Green Memorial Church in Warwick. □

Lois Zarifian

Lois Zarifian, wife of the late Rev. Avedis John Zarifian, passed away on March 8, 2018 in Montreal, QC, Canada. She was 87.



Lois, born on April 21, 1930 in Beirut, Lebanon, was the first born of four sisters and a brother in the family of Rev. Kevork Balikian and Sela Barsoum. The family moved to Argentina when Rev. Balikian accepted a call to be Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Brotherhood Church in Buenos Aires. Lois attended the Ward College for her primary and secondary education and, after graduating from the British Hospital, she completed her internship and continued working there as a nurse.

In 1952, Lois married Rev. Zarifian. In 1955, they were blessed with a baby boy, Daniel. Lois continued working in the Theological Seminary.

Lois served as a pastor's wife supporting the churches where Rev. Zarifian was called to be Pastor: Armenian Evangelical Church of Buenos Aires 1951-1962; Armenian Evangelical Ararat Church in Salem, NH 1962-1966; and the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal 1967-1977, where they devoted their time to the needs of new immigrants. During this time, she worked part-time as a nurse in St. Mary's Hospital. From 1977-1980 she accompanied her husband for a Middle Eastern Evangelistic tour. Upon returning from the Middle East they served at the Armenian Evangelical Euphrates Church of Providence, RI from 1980-1998. In 1998, the Zarifians settled in Montreal and in April 2016 they resided in the Ararat Apartments for Senior Citizens. After the passing of Rev. Zarifian in December 2017, Lois settled into a new care center, St-Moritz (Cote Vertu) in early March. She passed away soon after moving to her new residence.

She was a faithful woman, dedicated believer, mother, sister and friend. Her love for God, her smile and compassionate heart were striking lines in her life. She will be missed.

Funeral services were held on March 17, 2018 at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal. □

The AMAA Board of Directors and the staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends.

* Alice Festekjian North Ridge, CA	Rendel Levonian, M.D. Walnut, CA	* Miriam Malkhasian Watertown, MA
* Diana Der Hovanessian Cambridge, MA	Hagopian Magarian São Paulo, Brazil	* Marlene Voskian Altadena, CA
* Memorials designated for AMAA		* Robert Ziegler Oradell, NJ

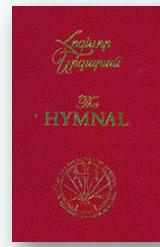
Featured Books



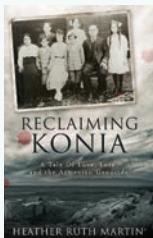
A Century of Armenian Protestantism 1846-1946 (Second Printing)
The author recounts the history of the Armenian Evangelical movement from its beginning to 1946.
by Leon Arpee
 Item # 365 - Price: \$20.00



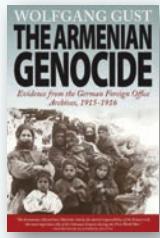
A History of Armenian Christianity (Second Printing)
A fairly objective overview of the Christian pilgrimage of the Armenian people throughout the centuries.
by Leon Arpee
 Item # 366 - Price: \$30.00



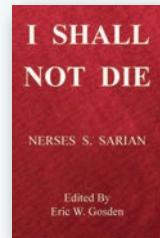
The Hymnal (Hokevor Yerkaran)
 Հոգեւոր Երգարան
 Bilingual Hymns
 Item # 353 - Price: \$30.00



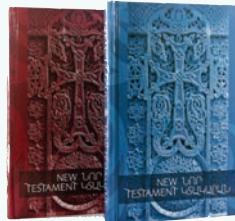
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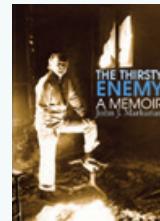
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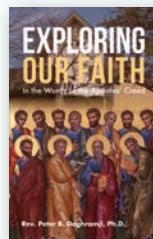
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Ընդհակալութեամբ Սսացար Received With Thanks

The AMAA acknowledges with gratitude receipt of the following new bilingual publications:

ՔաջալերուԵ - 66 հիքսատիա Գրութիւններ - Վեր. Տիգրան Շանկեան

Մեծ Երազի ճամբուն Ուղեւորերը եւ Յամապարփակ Պատմութիւն Ռամկավար Ազատական

Կուսակցութեան - Գ. Յասոր - Յակոբ Վարդիկառեան

Լուսարձակի Տակ - Անիածոյ Ըլլալու Երանութիւնը - Երուանդ Յ. Քասունի

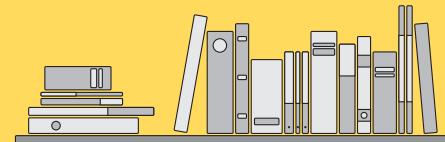
Trinitarian Ethics - Peter Doghramji

At the Crossroad of DerZor - Hilmar Kaiser in collaboration with Luther and Nancy Eskijian

Lightlab - Suzanne O. Shera

50 Years Promise Progress Presence - St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral 1968-2018

It Will Be a Day of Great Rejoicing - Vasken I





AMAA SUMMERCAMPS

in Armenia & Artsakh
2018



EVERY SUMMER

the AMAA supports Armenian Evangelical Camps and Daily Vacation Bible Schools, which offer thousands of children and youth an experience where they can escape from their impoverished daily routines. AMAA Camps are wonderful programs that foster self-esteem, build self-confidence and, most importantly, give campers the opportunity to hear the Word of God. Dedicated and loving counselors lead fun and educational activities, where campers play, explore and discover. Campers especially love activities related to culture, sports and Christian Education.

Through the kindness and generosity of our donors, the AMAA operates two overnight camps (Camp Sheen-Shoghig in Hankavan, Armenia and Camp Bedrosian in Shushi, Artsakh) as well as over 35 day camps in other areas of the Homeland.

Please help the AMAA continue giving children some much-needed summer fun! Support the AMAA Camp Program.

A GIFT OF \$70 WILL HELP ONE CHILD BE ABLE TO ATTEND AN OVERNIGHT CAMP FOR ONE WEEK.

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THEY WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR GENEROSITY OR THE POSITIVE IMPACT THAT YOU WILL HAVE ON THEIR YOUNG LIVES.
ON BEHALF OF ALL OF OUR YOUNG AMAA CAMPERS, THANK YOU AND HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!

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Convention in Athens of the Four Churches of Greece, early 1900s.